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(23)

St. Augustine's College Tracts.

No. 1.



INTRODUCTORY.

THE idea of issuing this Tract and the following one, partly originated in thoughts suggested by the Third Jubilee, which the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel is now celebrating throughout the Church of England, and her daughter Churches in Foreign Parts. The Jubilee Fund will be devoted to the furtherance of the great objects in which the Society is engaged. A portion will go towards the endowment of more Bishoprics for the Colonies. Now it is a fact, established by uniform experience, that the appointment of a Bishop in a Colony is followed immediately by a large increase in the number of Colonial Clergy, besides bringing to light a vast number of cases, which would have otherwise remained unknown, where Clergymen are urgently required.* It was natural, therefore, that a Fund for providing additional Bishops should suggest another Fund for providing additional Priests and Deacons. And so we find that, with great propriety, the Society has joined

* Statistical proof of this will be offered in a subsequent Tract.

together the "Extension of the Episcopate abroad" and the "Education of Missionary Candidates."

That these are two objects in which all members of the Church ought to unite, and therefore objects to be pressed upon all, throughout every Diocese and every Parish, no right thinking person will deny. But, granting these Funds to have been supplied, practical men will see that a most important duty still remains to the Church. There is a further war which needs to be stated with equal distinctness, and to be made as widely known, and pressed as closely upon all classes of Churchmen.

That "the fields are already white to harvest" and that "the harvest is plenteous," beyond a former season, is to be acknowledged with much thanksgiving to the LORD of all; but that "the labourers are few" should be the subject of much sorrow and searching of heart. It is to be hoped that all Christians obey their Master's injunction far as to "*pray* the LORD of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest;" and it might be shown by many instances that God has heard their prayers, and by marked and wonderful providences has raised up and maintained a succession of faithful Missionaries, even in an age of comparative inactivity. Yet it must at the same time be confessed, that on the part of the Church there has been no general and systematic effort to search out and furnish wise and devoted men, on a scale commensurate with her position, wealth, and opportunities.

much less commensurate with the necessities of the case. The number of missionary Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, might well be multiplied tenfold. In order, however, to this result, the whole Church must be moved to united action, and well-considered measures adopted, by an authority to which these observations can in no way pretend.

It will be evident that the queries to be found in No. 2 of this series are simply suggestive; not issued for the purpose of drawing out definite and immediate answers, but of calling general attention to the important subject, that an adequate supply of Missionaries, for the Colonies and distant Dependencies of the British Empire, ought to be—and has not as yet been—provided by the Church of England.

There are three questions, however, which the perusal of such queries may suggest, to which it may be as well to give general answers here by anticipation.

1. *Whence must the men be obtained?*

There are many sources:—The Universities—Grammar Schools—Middle Schools—The Clergy Orphan School—Young Men's Societies—Choirs—Sunday School Teachers—The families of Missionaries and of poorer Clergy at home, &c.

2. *By whom or where should they be trained?*

There are many ways:—By the Parochial Clergyman—In the School—At the Universities—At St. Augustine's College—In Colonial Colleges, of which there are now seventeen—By Colonial Bishops or

their Chaplains, who have already trained many useful Missionaries.

3. *By whom can they be maintained ?*

Many modes have been adopted or might be suggested :—By the individuals themselves—By relations—By Noblemen or Private Gentlemen—By their Parishes—By Colleges at Oxford or Cambridge—By voluntary combinations of Individuals, as in the laudable example of the Eton Masters—By Societies—By Deans and Chapters—By London Companies—By the Jubilee Fund—By County Associations, as is the case in Leicestershire—By Colonial Bishops and Clergy, who have often devoted part of their small incomes to this purpose.

Once let the men be found, trained, and maintained up to the time of their ordination, the future may be left in humble trust to other means, and the good Providence of God. "*The labourer is worthy of his hire.*" (St. Luke x. 7.) "*He said unto them, What I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing ? And they said, Nothing.*" (St. Luke xxii. 35.)

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No. 2 is "A VOICE OF AFFECTIONATE INQUIRY FROM THE MISSIONARY COLLEGE, CANTERBURY," and is to be had on the same terms.









































