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"further amount of scholarship, in the midst of all his work, to qualify "him to do what it is on proof he has well done?"

The status of curates, as the rule, is one well deserving the compassion of all thoughtful Churchmen. They are made the butts of novelists, servants of incumbents, at wages scarcely equal to the emoluments of the butlers of many parishioners; apprentices, yet doing rarely much less, often far more than their masters; denied all voice in any of the important movements connected with the Church; mere youths, with all youth's disposition, hampered on all sides by the discipline which cuts off from them so much of youth's natural enjoyment; they toil on, battling in these their young days against sin, the flesh, and the devil; but too often with little consideration from those they serve to their utmost, in regard to the fact, that for such warfare, at such an age, all encouragement should be accorded to them, all possible allowance made for any of their shortcomings. If I contend for a prolongation of the Diaconate, I at the same time claim that while it lasts the Deacon should have his just due.

S. G. OSBORNE.

Lewes, Feb. 4.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHURCH FOR
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, 1860-1884.

SIR.—As it will doubtless afford interest to many to be acquainted with the following facts, which, after long and laborious inquiry, I am in the position to represent, may I ask you, on behalf of the Committee of the Official Year-Book of the Church of England, to be good enough to give them publicity? This statement records an endeavour to ascertain what has been contributed by members of the Church of England during the last quarter of a century to the various branches of Christian work indicated by the following summary.

The statement may be accepted as perfectly accurate, inasmuch as the figures have been tabulated from returns made by those officially representing the Societies and Institutions that have been severally dealt with. It will be seen, however, from the explanations appended, that the statement is by no means an exhaustive representation of the Church's voluntary offerings within the given period, as it will be clear to all that it would be impossible to gather the sum of contributions flowing through private channels, or devoted by Churchmen to Societies and Institutions and Charities of a general and unsectarian character.

Explanations of the following Summary.

I. The Summary is *inclusive* of, and confined to, Societies and Institutions organized and administered by the Church of England alone. Every care has been taken to prevent any over-statement of facts. "Balances carried forward" from previous years have, of course, been deducted from the return of the annual income in every instance; dividends and interest from the investment of bequests and such like voluntary offerings being included. With regard to the figures representing the expenditure upon church building and restoration, the endowment of benefices, and the erection of parsonage houses, this total has been arrived at after a careful examination of Lord Hampton's returns, the Parliamentary reports of the Ecclesiastical Commission and Queen Anne's Bounty, and with the practical experience of the Editor of the Year-Book after a three years' systematic inquiry made throughout the Church in reference to this special branch of Church work. In arriving at the

general result as it is given, deduction has been made of grants devoted from the funds of the several Church Building and Extension Societies included under the third division of this Summary relating to Home Missions.

II. The Summary is *exclusive*—

(1) Of certain distinctive Church Societies, Institutions, and Charities, concerning which the Committee have for the present been unable from various circumstances to obtain information.

(2) Of all contributions devoted to parochial purposes; such as the maintenance of the assistant clergy (over and above sums contributed to the Additional Curates Society and Church Pastoral Aid), Church services, institutions of a local character, the relief of the sick, and such-like objects.

(3) Of funds devoted to the founding and maintenance of middle-class schools.

(4) Of all contributions devoted to Societies and Institutions distinctly unsectarian in their aim and administration to which Churchmen give largely, such as the Bible Society, Religious Tract Society, London City Missions; also orphan asylums, hospitals, reformatories, and such-like Institutions as lay claim to general support, the Institutions of a philanthropic description included under Division VI. of this Summary being confined to those organized and maintained by the Church.

(5) The Sisterhoods of the Church, with very few exceptions, preferring to withhold, or unable to give, the information, the return of their income can scarcely be considered as embraced by this inquiry.

It may be stated, for the satisfaction of those who may read and use these figures, that they have been tabulated from a twenty-five years' return of income made by the secretaries or treasurers of at least 400 different Societies and Institutions, and tested throughout by an experienced actuary.

From these explanations we may fairly conclude that though it can be accurately asserted that Churchmen have, within the last quarter of a century, contributed over £81,000,000 to the several specified branches of Christian work at home and abroad, this sum cannot be said in any way to represent the full extent of the Church's voluntary offerings for the spiritual and social well-being of the nation.

SUMMARY.

I. <i>Theological Schools</i> , and education of Candidates for Holy Orders	£	528,653
II. <i>Church building</i> and restoration, endowments of benefices, building of parsonage houses, and enlargement of burial-grounds (all grants from Church Societies and Corporations being excluded)	£	35,175,000
III. <i>Home Missions</i> :		
Bishops' Funds for Church Extension	£	1,055,054
Church Extension Societies	£	1,229,603
Church Building Societies	£	317,436
Societies for Employment of Additional Curates	£	2,543,296
General Home Mission Societies	£	888,623
Scripture Readers	£	490,611
Seamen's Mission	£	352,588
Temperance Work	£	128,590
Extension of Home Episcopate	£	420,677
		7,426,478

IV. *Foreign Missions*:

Contributions raised through the agency of Societies in England for the promotion of Foreign Missions, including Missionary Colleges, Studentship Associations, etc. (contributions locally raised abroad being excluded) £ 10,100,000

V. *Elementary Education*:

1. Building and Enlargement—	£	s.	d.
(a) Schools	8,370,294	0	0
(b) Colleges	115,200	0	0
2. Maintenance—			
(a) Schools	12,145,489	3	1
(b) Colleges	367,317	14	8
3. Diocesan Inspection, organization of Schools, etc.	363,740	17	3
Societies for the promotion of education by circulation of literature and other agencies			
Church Institutes	987,841		
	71,660		

VI. *Charitable Work* (distinctively Church of England Institution): £

Nursing Institutions	193,752
Deaconesses	118,948
Cottage Hospitals and Convalescent Homes ...	968,936
Orphanages and Sisterhoods ...	982,223
Reformatories	395,187
Penitentiaries	549,129
Hospital Sunday, Metropolitan and Provincial ...	610,025

3,818,200

VII. *Clergy Charities*:

General and Diocesan	2,103,364
£81,573,237	

NOTE.—Explanatory of Division V., Elementary Education:

I. The disbursements of the National Society during the period under consideration are included in the above total.

II. The value of land given as school sites is not, as a rule, included in the above table. Various items of school and college income given in the returns from which the figures have been taken are also omitted, because it is doubtful how far such income has been derived from purely Church sources. The actual total expenditure of the Church on elementary education during the twenty-five years has probably considerably exceeded £22,000,000.

III. No account has been taken of a large voluntary contribution for the promotion of higher education.

I am, faithfully yours,
FREDERICK BURNSIDE,
Hon. Editor and Sec.

Hertfordbury,
Feb. 6, 1886.

Short Notices.

From Korti to Khartum. A journal of the desert march from Korti to Gubat, and of the ascent of the Nile in General Gordon's steamers. By Col. Sir CHARLES W. WILSON, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.C.L. Third edition. Pp. 311. W. Blackwood and Sons. 1886.

THIS ably-written book has a very peculiar interest, and we are not at all surprised to observe that it has quickly reached a fourth edition. The journal of the march from Korti to Gubat and of the venture in Gordon's