

5. The next point which the council have had under their notice, is that of the ecclesiastical arrangements which have been made.

The council are commissioned to express on the part of the bishop designate of the settlement his great regret that he was unable to meet the society during his brief stay in the colony. A special meeting was called for the purpose on the 11th inst. but the violence of the weather, and the state of the roads, rendered it impossible to be held. The object, however, for which the bishop designate came out, has been accomplished. The school and college have been set on foot, with such temporary accommodation as could be obtained in so early a stage of the colony. Arrangements have been made for the performance of the Church Services in the most populous places, and above all, Dr. Jackson has concerted such measures with the Bishop of New Zealand, as it is confidently expected will remove the difficulties which stood in the way of his consecration before he left England.

6. The council have taken such steps as will lead to the establishment of public reading rooms at Christchurch and Lyttelton. They recommend that there should be public reading rooms which all subscribers shall be entitled to avail themselves. They will be supplied with newspapers and periodicals from England and the neighbouring colonies to the extent which the number of subscribers will admit of. Mr. Godley has placed rooms at the disposal of the council for the purpose. At Christchurch in the land offices, and at Lyttelton in that part of the Emigration Barracks which is about to be set apart for the college. It is hoped that the books presented to the colonists in London, which they gave to the college library as well as those presented immediately to the College library will be placed in the reading rooms and be at the services of the subscribers; under such regulations, however, as the college authorities may consider it necessary to enforce, for the safe custody of the volumes committed to their trust.

The council have prepared, and annexed to this report, an account of the expences which they have incurred since the last general meeting, together with an estimate of those which it is thought they will have to meet during the next six months. In this estimate the Society will perceive an item amounting to 12l.10s. for the services of a clerk. The council are of opinion that the appointment of such an office has become absolutely necessary.

The secretaries have been compelled to resign, nor can any one be expected, without adequate remuneration, to give up his time upon which there is so large a demand at this active period, to attend efficiently to the business of the society. The council therefore recommend the appointment of a clerk to the council at a salary of 25l. a year, and they have reason to believe that they shall be able to obtain the services of a