

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

San Juan, Porto Rico, February 9, 1904.

Mr. John W. Wood,

Sec'y., Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society,  
No. 281 Fourth Avenue,

New York City.

My dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Vestry of the Parish of St. John the Baptist of San Juan, Porto Rico, held on the 4th instant, I was instructed to inform you of the acceptance of the resignation of the Right Reverend James H. Van Buren as Rector of the Parish, and to request your good offices in the selection of his successor.

We are about to enter upon a new Parish year and will soon occupy our new and commodious church edifice, so that the new Rector will begin his work under peculiarly favorable auspices. It is the earnest desire of the Vestry that Bishop Van Buren's successor be a clergyman of middle age (between 25 and 40 years), energetic, possessing some oratorical talent as well as a sociable and genial temperament - one who will not only attract people in the Parish to come and hear his sermons, but who will also possess the ability and tact of getting into close touch and relations with people outside the Church.

It is doubtless unnecessary to enter into any great detail regarding the conditions that exist in Porto Rico, the obstacles that will confront the new Rector, or the great good that can be accomplished by the right man. A young or middle aged clergyman possessing the necessary qualifications: eagerness and ambition for work, with newness and force in his

sermons, and the willingness and wish to make friends, will find San Juan an interesting and sympathetic field for his labors. The new Church will aid him materially in his work, and the congregation will be at all times appreciative and sympathetic.

In connection with the securing of the services of the new Rector, I wish to say that the Parish has determined upon an increase in his compensation insofar as its circumstances will permit. Heretofore, the Parish has contributed \$600.00, per annum, but at a recent meeting of the Vestry it was decided to suggest to the Board of Missions that the Rector's remuneration be fixed at \$2,000.00, per annum, apportioned, as follows: \$1,200.00 to be paid by the Board of Missions, and \$800.00 by the Parish of San Juan. This additional payment of \$200.00 on the part of the local Parish represents the limit of its ability in the way of meeting the proposed increase in salary of the new Rector at this time.

To fill the interval between the selection of Bishop Van Buren's successor and the actual assumption of duty by such successor, we trust to arrange for a visiting clergyman to fill the pulpit. Inasmuch, however, as some time will necessarily elapse before all the details can be completed, it is hoped that you will be able to give this matter your early and earnest attention.

Assuring you, in the name of the Parish, of our sincere appreciation of any aid you may render us in connection with the securing of the new Rector, I am, with very best wishes,

Most sincerely yours,



S e c r e t a r y.