Ponce Ports Rico
June 3rd 1902

Rev. Joshua Kimber D.D.

My dear Mr. Kimber,

Your letter of May 20th was read by our last mail from N.Y. And I am very glad you gave me such a clear account of what the Board of Managers did answer my friend at their meeting on May 13th.

I have just written to Mrs. Wood in reply to a letter she sent from him with yours, so that I will leave with yours, so that the Board will receive the information through my letter to him.
I note especially in the preamble the following clause, "Pursuing the action of the Bishop in inducing the local congregation to keep its contract and to repay money advanced by the Board under the following resolution."

I am informed by the members who composed the former Victry that there was no contract or promise of any kind made by this congregation to contribute any such amount towards the support of a rector. That the resource of the Church would not permit such a promise and that the impression that such a contribution can possibly be made by this congregation is erroneous. The only part which this Church was doing towards the support of the
their former rector at his resignation
was the payment of $25. per month
for his house rent.

It is true that under the admin-
istration of the Bishop of Antigua
the salary of the rector was met
by the local congregation apart
from the support which it
is now receiving, but the circum-
cstances were very different
from those which now exist.
In the first place, private
subscriptions as well as
missionary appropriations were
needed. From England, where the
little Protestant Church of
Porto Rico, on account of its
politic position and independence
in daring to lift its head under-
tyrannous Spanish rule held a very dear place in the affections of the Bishop of the Church of England and their earnest endorsement and support. Then too it was the only Protestant church in Porto Rico and apart from the regular monthly subscription paid monthly visits by the rector. Protestant services were given elsewhere on the Island I sent in their contributions for the support of this church. Of course all this has been stopped. The English contributions have left it to the American Church and in no much an Protestant
churches have been established all over the island each town has its own work to support. Again, upon the occupation of the island by the Americans, many of the officials were temporarily stationed at Prince and they were very generous in their contributions to this church. Any from this source the treasury was much benefited, but this was only a temporary support and such contributions having been removed their contributions have ceased. Many of those who contributed largely to the maintenance of the church from the beginning of its existence have also removed or died and much support has been
took on this account. So this while in the past a good showing was made, the changed condition of affairs have any materially altered the financial ability of the church and whether it did in the past or on test of what can be done now.

In regard to this congregation retaining a majority elected by the Board under this resolution, the Board would know that the only Board would know that the only resource from which to receive such a return as the little balance held to the wealth of the church by the treasurer of the church by the treasurer of the church. Possibly a Board of directors could be asked to reorganize the early taxing.
lift by the former rector of this church from his efforts to provide a fund with which to meet the imperative necessity for a new church which we all recognize is fast approaching.

While we are convinced of the wisdom of the Board in all its actions and assured that it is not lacking in sympathy for our interest in the church at Ponce, yet we cannot quite understand why from this little fund, the only thing apart from the regular support of the rector of the American Church, has ever been drawn for the whole of Antigua for the beneficence of the whole Island to the American Church.
The future of our Church will depend upon what shall be done and not the continuance of what we have now. The crisis through which we are passing is one which affects our very existence. True, we have a Church building the result of the enthusiasm of Protestants, and the liberality of Protestants. In the years past, we have the history of a struggle for existence through more than a quarter of a century and more and then a well-earned victory is recorded. But Protestant Churches, more modern and expensive are springing up about us. Protestant Ministers and Churches working, multiplying with liberal support.
from their home Board. If we are to remain we must take on new life, just forth new energy and to do so we must have the untrussed & generous support of the church at home.

Please pardon such a long letter. I am only clear here but I want to present to the Board a full and clear account of the situation here.

I am with best wishes in Christian love,

Yrs Faithfully & Affly,

E. Sterling Grimm.