

in fact, attend divine service—perhaps not one family in six. Besides this vicinity, we have another spot somewhat more distant—perhaps two miles from Calcutta—where we have hundreds of houses, whose inhabitants yet more rarely have the public worship of Almighty God.

“An occasion arose about three months since, which seemed to me to open a prospect of a church being erected, which, with a little management, might be formed on a plan to be an ornament to Calcutta, and to become the cathedral of the see.

“I applied, accordingly, to Government for a commanding site on the esplanade itself, in the very panorama of the Fort, which sweeps round with a radius of nearly a mile, on the north and south face of this city of palaces.

“Last evening a favourable reply was received from the Governor-general. The site is granted.

“I am now arranging the plans for a cathedral, small as compared with our vast structures at home but superb and majestic when contrasted with the mean and inconvenient church which is now the cathedral of Calcutta. Captain Forbes, of the Engineers, is my able architect.

“I propose a church 205 feet in length, 90 wide, and 60 high; with north and south transept, and a suitable choir; and a spire resembling that of Norwich cathedral, so far as 220 feet can resemble 313. At the west end I hope to construct this in such a beautiful and massive Gothic style as to give a dignity to our religious worship in the sight of the heathens and Mohammedans, and to attract the indifferent and lukewarm—too large a class—in the Christian community around us.

“Five clergy I hope to attach to this cathedral—the archdeacon as a kind of dean—and four native priests as prebendaries; to be called by these names if I should ever obtain the due authority for it from home.

“The whole expense I put down at four lakhs (40,000l.)—two, or two and a half, for the building themselves; half a lakh for organ, chime or bells, clock, painted windows, and fittings-up; and one lakh for endowment to the clergy—for 100,000r. at 8 per cent, will allow six parts of about 130l. a-year each—of which I would assign two to the dean, and one to each of my native canons, to whom I should propose to assign also missionary duties as well as cathedral—so that schools may be taught, native service performed, lectures to the heathen and Mohammedans delivered, as well as aid rendered to the dean and chaplain in the daily English prayers and services.

“So far as I can judge, no one thing, in a country of magnificence like this, is so likely to give local habitation to Church as this plan, and to present it in its appropriate attitude.

“When I say four lakhs, I hope I say the utmost of the actual expense; but I would not spoil the design for a few rupees; and therefore five, or even six lakhs may possibly be required.

“I give myself, altogether, two lakhs: one immediately, the other probably not till after my death. I shall have to raise by subscription here and at home the remainder.

“If the Venerable Society should find itself in circumstances to allow of its devoting an annual sum for four years to this vast undertaking, I think I can assure them it would be well bestowed. The sum they have entrusted to me already, I propose to dedicate to this good work in the first instance. I is with great submission I prefer this request; and if the Society should find itself unable to comply with it, I shall still remain, as ever, theirs most faithfully.”

The following Report from the Standing Committee was then laid before the meeting:—

“The Standing Committee having taken into consideration the letter of the Bishop of Calcutta, and being fully impressed with the great importance of the undertaking, in its bearing upon the progress of Christianity in India, are of opinion, that the Society should second the munificent intentions and the energetic efforts of the Metropolitan. They therefore beg to recommend to the Board, that a grant of 1,000l. per annum, for five years, making the sum

of 5,000l., be made towards the building and endowment of a cathedral church in Calcutta.

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, dated New York, Nov. 6, 1839. The following are extracts:—

“On entering on the affairs of my new diocese, which are confessedly in a very perplexed condition, and require more than ordinary care and toil for their administration, I must again appeal to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, for an assistance to which, in a humbler and more timid sphere of usefulness, I have been frequently and deeply indebted.

“The miserable destitution of the Protestant inhabitants of many populous settlements on the coast of Newfoundland, their want of books, of schools, of pastoral ministrations or instruction in the truths of religion, of any character at all, are not unknown to your Board; and it will certainly much encourage my hope of stimulating and reviving a religious feeling in these really desolate parts of the earth. If I shall be empowered by the Society to apply some portion of their funds to the exigencies which I may find most urgent, and which it may be important immediately to relieve. Whatever may be the means which the Society may think fit to place at my disposal, I should wish to be permitted to expend a small part of them in Bermuda—a colony limited indeed as to extent, in comparison with Newfoundland, but, which is endeared to me by many interesting associations, and especially by the growth of an ecclesiastical establishment with which I have been long connected and which is well worthy of the fostering care of your Society.”

The Secretaries then stated that the Standing Committee recommended to the Board to place the sum of 300l. at his lordship's disposal, for the purpose of promoting the Society's designs in his diocese.

This recommendation was agreed to; it being considered a preliminary grant.

A similar sum was then voted for the same purpose to the Lord Bishop of Toronto; it being understood that the Board would be happy to render further aid when it should be required.

From the Ecclesiastical Gazette, January 14, 1840.

“The Englishman,” a Calcutta newspaper, of Thursday, October 10, 1839, contains an account of the laying the foundation-stone of the intended new cathedral church of St. Paul, Calcutta, on the previous Tuesday. The following are extracts from his account:—

“Among the assembly were the governor of Bengal and C. Bird, who stood near the Bishop. After the bishop had read the first prayers, the archdeacon recited the 132d Psalm. The Rev. Mr. Pratt, the bishop's chaplain, next read the inscription and the list of coins which were subsequently included in the foundation-stone.”

The following is a copy of this inscription:—

“In the name of the blessed and undivided Trinity, the first stone of a Church to be called and known by the name of
ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, CALCUTTA,
and designed for the worship of Almighty God,
according to the doctrine and
discipline of the
apostolical-reformed Church of England and
Ireland, was laid by
Daniel, Bishop of Calcutta, and Metropolitan of India,
assisted by the Archdeacon and Clergy, and
in the presence of many of the distinguished gentry
of Calcutta,
on Tuesday the 8th day of October, in the year
of our Lord 1839,
and in the third year of the reign of her most
excellent Majesty
VICTORIA,
Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

The site was granted by the
Right Honourable George, Lord Auckland, G. C. B.
Governor-general of India,
and the Honourable Colonel W. Morrison, C. B.
the Honourable T. C. Robertson and the honourable
W. W. Bird,
Members of the Supreme Council

In the name of
the Honourable the East India Company.
The designs and plans were drawn by
W. N. Forbes, Major of Engineers, and
Master of the Honourable Company's mint,
and the building is to be erected (if God is pleased to permit)
under the superintendence of
Colonel D. Macleod, Chief Engineer,
the above-named Major Forbes, and W. R. Fitzgerald,
Captain of Engineers and Civil Architect.

“Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that build it.”—Psalm cxxvii.

“His name”—Messiah's—“shall endure for ever; his name shall be continued as long as the sun; and men shall be blessed in him; all nations shall call him blessed.”

“Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.”

“And blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.”—Psalm lxxii. 17—19.

The stone having been laid, the Bishop offered up other prayers, and then addressed the assembly to the following effect:

“It would be most ungrateful in me to allow this respectable company to separate without returning them my best thanks for the support they have rendered me in the commencement of this great work. It will hardly be credited that in less than one month from the time of the issue of the proposals, upwards of 60,000 rupees have been subscribed. Nor is it less gratifying to know that every one of the donations made for the immediate time has been paid in, so that we have now more than 161,000 rupees in the whole to rely on, including the bishop's donation. The funds, therefore, for a year to come or more, are actually ready, and those for the entire body of the building itself promised. In the mean time, numerous friends in Calcutta, and all over India, are only waiting for the commencement of the work to make their donations. I have also addressed numerous letters to the chief personages in Church and State, with whom I have the honour of being acquainted at home, which I expect will arrive there in November or the following month. An application to the honourable Company for the grant of two lakhs, must have reached home by this time. With these resources, we enter upon our undertaking without despondency. We have, however, reduced every part of the design to the lowest point, perhaps too low a point, so as to endanger the great object in view. It will only be 100 feet by 62 in the body of the church, and 132 by 62 including the chancel, and will accommodate about 600 persons. The expense of the buildings themselves is not expected to exceed a lakh and a quarter of rupees. The fittings and fittings-up may raise this to nearly two lakhs. The endowments are the only part of the design particularly expensive, and which cannot be reduced. I trust we may raise 2½ or 3 lakhs for the support of a small, but devout and learned body of cathedral clergy, to read lectures on the evidences of Christianity, to hold conferences with learned natives to train catechetical classes, and to assist the Rev. Chaplains and Missionaries in their work. I hope its endowed prebends may be the first series of ecclesiastical benefices established in our Protestant Church in India; and that Bishop's College may furnish suitable candidates for holy orders on the fulfilment of these endowments. All this, however, will be work for my successors, and for the Indian generation of the next age.

“What may be deemed ornamental additions and conveniences, organ, clock, bells, stands for carrying &c. will likewise be for future consideration, so far as means may allow; the ultimate amount which I hope to raise is thus 6 lakhs. With respect to the buildings themselves, the general estimate I have given will hardly be thought excessive by those who remember the expense incurred in the foundations of all buildings in our alluvial soil, and the general difficulties created afterwards by our Bengal climate. The present cathedral of St. John's, it is understood, cost more than 2½ lakhs, the Scotch Church 2½, the Fort still more; in none of which churches there the least excess of ornament or expense.

“As to the position of the new cathedral, we be-