

Family Reading.

CAPE BRETON—A MISSIONARY RECORD.

From the Colonial Church Chronicle. We gladly open our pages to the following paper which we have been requested to publish. It is written by the Rev. Charles Ingles, one of the oldest North American Missionaries of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

An account of the island of Cape Breton may be found in the second volume of Judge Halliburton's "Nova Scotia," or in the Monthly Record of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, vol. i. p. 79.

In the parish register at Sydney, the earliest record I find of this mission is an entry in April, A. D. 1785, signed by B. Lovell, Curate.

The Rev. Ranna Cossin's earliest entry is in June, 1786. This gentleman came with several loyalists from New England, continued nineteen years in charge of the mission, and was removed by the first bishop, Dr. C. Inglis, in July, 1805.

In June, 1824, when I was stationed at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, the mission being vacant, I suggested to the Ecclesiastical Commissary the propriety of visiting the island, and offered my services, provided my own church and parish could be attended to.

At the time that an interesting service took place during the passage. Several children were brought in a boat by their parents to be baptized; and lashing the boats together in the mid-channel, and lowering the sails, the holy ordinance was administered to us floated on the waters of the lake.

From Baddeck my route lay through the valley of the Middle River, at that time very thinly peopled. I was traveling along a mere bridle-path, at times scarcely visible, trusting to the natural instinct of my horse, given by Divine Providence for the service of man; a proof—if proof were wanting—that I was not alone, and that not only God was there, but that His guiding and protecting arm was there also.

Margaret was the next settlement in my route. After assembling the people, and joining in the customary services, I had the gratification of being kindly received by an English family. Having now crossed the island, the different settlements on the Gulf shore came in their order; viz., the harbor of Margaret, Broad Cove, Mahou, Port Hood, Plaster Cove, and Ship Harbor in the Strait of Canseau.

My route now lay through the Strait of Canseau to Arichat, in the Isle de Madame, a place already noticed in this report. Here, although a great majority of the population were Romanists, natives or descended from French Canadians, I found a small but faithful band of Churchmen from the Norman Isle of Jersey.

good, and taking advantage of this, in two or three years a church was erected; and I had the happiness of procuring them the services of a clergyman, who was recommended by Dr. M. Ras-el, the late bishop of Glasgow.

Important as this assistance was to me, the island of Cape Breton was still an overwhelming care; and though, as a missionary, I was ever ready to visit the distant settlements, yet I felt the parochial charge of the whole island too great, and after some delay succeeded in obtaining a parish of limited and reasonable extent, into which I was inducted by the governor's mandate, and instituted by bishop Inglis.

I have thus given a brief sketch of my first journey round the island, from which subsequent journeys do not greatly differ; except that in the winter season, when travelling on the ice was good, I have crossed the Bras d'Or lake with the mercury at 19 degrees below zero.

In the year 1840 Mr. W. Y. Porter was ordained, and employed as visiting missionary, and I confined myself to places from seven to thirty-six miles distant from Sydney, chiefly on the Atlantic coast, viz., Sydney Mines, Main-a-Dieu, Loran, Louisbourg, Gabarus, Upper and Lower Mirre, Castilgne, Cow Bay, Glace Bay, and Brigport.

In the year 1841, I was in the habit of giving a monthly service to that congregation, being occasionally relieved by the Rev. W. Y. Porter, when the appointment of Mr. Elder as assistant missionary took place.

I may now perhaps be permitted to draw a comparative statement between the mission as it was in 1824, when I took charge of it, and as it is now. It must be borne in mind that, during sixteen years, I was single-handed, and my visits to twenty different and widely distant places could not often be repeated.

At the time of my arrival in Cape Breton there was but one church, which had been built at Sydney by the former government. The building at the North-west Arm was unfinished, and a mere shell; there are now six churches, and a chapel school-house, in which service is occasionally performed by the visiting missionary.

At the above period there were no Sunday schools within the mission; there are now eight in connexion with the church, viz., one at Sydney, two at the North-west Arm, at the Mines, Cow Bay, Glace Bay, Cox Heath, and Main-a-Dieu, one each, in which there are at least 180 children receiving instruction.

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have risen refreshed and happy, in the reflection that I was, however imperfectly, proclaiming the Gospel of peace and love to persons deprived of the regular administration of the ordinances of our holy religion. That I have too often failed in effecting the object of my mission I must sorrowfully own; and though I had done all, should acknowledge myself an unprofitable servant.

In a few days a well-assorted stock of men's Mercery will be to hand, which will be found to be strictly in character with every other branch of business.

In Official Robes, in their various orders, the same regard to correctness will be adhered to, for some years has secured to this Establishment so large a portion of business.

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