

# THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE."

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*For the Colonial Churchman.*

PARAPHRASE OF THE THIRTEENTH CHAPTER OF JOB.  
15th and 16th verses.

I am the Angel Raphael! He who lays  
The prayers and praises of the scattered saints,  
Before th' Almighty's Throne—I place them there,  
Balmy as incense from Arabia's shore;  
Sweet as the music of the starry sphere:  
So fear thou not. God is thy light and guide,  
And he will guard thee through the paths of life,  
And save thy feet from every lurking ill.  
Fear not, but praise him. Offer now to him  
The grateful offerings of an humble heart.  
He asks not *Wealth*. The streets of this high heaven  
Are paved as 'twere with gold; with precious stones.  
Her walls are garnished. Jasper and sapphire,  
And pearls, bright as the sun, compose her gates.  
Unwilling vows he hates, but will accept  
The offering of a pure and humble heart.  
Learning he heeds not. The child's unpractised words  
Do reach acceptably his gracious ear.  
Nor *Eloquence*. The silent vow—the tongue  
That moves not, and the palsied lip, can find  
Acceptance there, if but THE HEART be right.  
God sends me as thy guide—to minister,  
And aid, and comfort thee. I warn'd thee  
Where the poisonous snake in ambush lay.  
I warn'd thee of th' approach of rushing storms.  
I caus'd the wild beast turn from 'fore thy path,  
And sent the tiger crouching to his lair.  
I've done my Sovereign's will. Do thou the same.  
Obey, and love, and praise him. Thank him too.  
Now I return, to worship and obey him.

August, 1839.

SIGMA.

*For the Colonial Churchman.*

Messrs. Editors,

Should the following lines be deemed worthy a place in the columns of the Colonial Churchman, so kind as to give them insertion.

OPENING OF THE FIRST SCHOOL-HOUSE AND CHAPEL AT  
BLANDFORD, COUNTY OF LUNENBURG.

On Thursday the 28th day of July being the time appointed for the opening of the School-house and Chapel, the congregation with the Teacher and his pupils assembled at an early hour to witness the opening of the first building erected by the inhabitants of Blandford, in which Divine Worship might be performed, as well as for the education of the rising generation in the ways of knowledge and holiness. Many years have elapsed since the first thought had arisen in the minds of the inhabitants to erect such a desirable and needful edifice; and many have been the entreaties of their reverend Pastor to place such an operation: but it has pleased Almighty God at this happy period to unite the inhabitants more particularly in brotherly love and unity, so that they now with one heart and one mind have caused in a measure to be completed; a building where they may worship the Great Ruler of Heaven and Earth at their own doors: and also where their generations to come may receive useful knowledge and instruction, necessary to make them fit and useful members of society. A goodly number accord-

\*Our poetical correspondent, we are sure, will not object to our quoting here the inspired declaration—"There is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."—Ed. C. C.

ingly assembled, anxiously looking for the arrival of their spiritual guide, the Rev. James Shreve, D. D. to whom they are sincerely attached. His residence is at the distance of nine miles across a bay, and although within sight of Blandford, yet owing to the foggy state of the weather, and contrary winds, he was unavoidably detained longer than the appointed time. However, the fog clearing away for some minutes, his sail boat was discerned, and immediately a boat well manned put off and took him, with other gentlemen who accompanied him, and brought them on shore. Shortly after landing, the Rector entered the school-room and performed Divine service to a very respectable and attentive congregation, all seemingly delighted that they now had a building in which thus to assemble and be thankful to Almighty God for his mercies and blessings bestowed upon them. It being a very busy season of the year, many were prevented being present; others on account of the weather, having an idea that the Rector would postpone his visit until the ensuing week. Suffice it to say, however, about ninety persons were present on this very solemn and interesting occasion. After the morning service, a very appropriate and impressive discourse was delivered, from 2 Sam. 11 c. 11, 12, and 13th verses, in which the preacher described the important duty of parents toward their children; the obligations they were under to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—the great necessity of at least a common education among all classes—the total want of it experienced by many among them now in their declining years, and the necessity laid upon them to use all means in their power to train their children, or cause them to be trained, in the way they should go; that when they become old, they might not depart from it. Many were much impressed with the truth of the discourse, which caused them to lament that so much of their own precious time was now necessarily lost, not being able to bestow it upon the reading of God's holy word, and to feel the more anxious that their children should not have cause likewise to lament that which they themselves so severely felt the want of. The sermon being ended a prayer was offered up to the throne of grace, beseeching God to grant his blessing upon teachers, parents, and pupils. By request the teacher rose with the children at the conclusion of the service and sang a part of the 23d Psalm; and truly it was delightful to hear those little infants, (comparatively speaking,) raising their youthful voices in praise to God. After which, the children were questioned in their catechisms, and underwent an examination in reading and spelling, and acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of all present. Before the departure of the Rector, the deed of a piece of ground whereon the school-house is built, being signed by the Messrs. Publicovers, was made over to the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia and his successors, for the public benefit. Thus ended this pleasing ceremony.—They have at this time resident among them a teacher, a native of this province, who is anxious to use his humble efforts among them for their good: his labours are indefatigable—regularly reading the services of the Church both there and at a place about two miles distant, called Sandy Beaches, in the absence of their minister—together with a Sabbath and singing school also under his superintendence. May God assist him in his undertaking, and make him instrumental in doing good, especially to the rising generation. Their Sabbaths are now spent in prayer and praise to God, and the days of the week are taken up in the instruction of the young—so that it can now be said in the words of the apostle, "Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new," or with the Psalmist—"The right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass."

"For he is th' Lord supremely good;  
His mercy is forever sure:  
His truth which always firmly stood,  
To endless ages shall endure."

Annexed is a brief description of the first settlement of Blandford and Sandy Beaches, otherwise named Ashmatogen. Blandford is situated on the eastern side of the township of Chester, in extent about four miles; principally settled at the mouth of Shoal Cove. It is a flourishing settlement, with commodious houses pleasantly sited, comprising two thousand acres of land, a great part under cultivation, and containing about thirty families. The population is about 150; and they number also about 80 children. They are in religious tenets, those of the Established Church and Lutherans; the major part of the former persuasion. They are a very industrious and enterprising people, and some wealthy; in general they are very abstemious, neat and cleanly in their dwellings, affable and humane, and in like manner hospitable to strangers; their farms are in a high state of cultivation, of which their living and support chiefly consist, not employing more of their time at the fishing than is absolutely necessary.—Blandford has been settled upwards of forty years. The former settlers were Irish, who lived in hovels, attending altogether to the fishing in the summer season; and in the winter, to the cutting and sale of cord wood, and they totally neglected the cultivation of the land. The German descendants who are the present inhabitants of Blandford, and who purchased those lands of the Irish settlers, are now reaping the reward of their labours, and herein are the words of the wise man verified, "The hand of the diligent maketh rich,"—for

"His house the seat of wealth shall be,  
An inexhausted treasury.  
His justice free from all decay,  
Shall blessings to his heirs convey."

Sandy Beaches, or Ashmatogen, is situated on the eastern side of Blandford, at the distance of two miles by land. It contains about the same number of acres, and has been settled about thirty years: it is about 3 miles in extent, with an open and full view of the sea and adjacent coast. The number of men and women are between twenty and thirty, but there are few children. The houses are convenient and pleasantly situated; and the people are in religious tenets, manners and customs, the same as those of Blandford.

I believe this, Messrs. Editors, to be a concise account of the situation of the inhabitants of those settlements. I know and am well persuaded, that were native teachers encouraged in this province, much good would arise from their labours, should a sufficient compensation be allowed for their services.—It is a notorious fact, that many in this province who are in every way calculated to take upon themselves the pleasing task of teaching, remain inactive, in consequence of the little encouragement given, and because many through avarice, and others on account of poverty, employ those teachers who are incompetent to instruct,—so that in many parts of this province, learning has become a dead letter.—I feel assured, that until a general assessment takes place, the inhabitants of this province will have to lament the want of education among their children; and undoubtedly, many parts must remain as they are, totally ignorant and bordering on heathenism. But we hope for the better, and trust that all in the Province of Nova Scotia may know the Lord, from the least even to the greatest; and that all teachers may exercise the talents committed to their care, bearing in mind the great responsibility they are under, in the full and faithful discharge of their duty toward the children intrusted to their charge; and