

From the Society's Reports.

Report of Rev. John Stevenson, Visiting Missionary.

King's College, Windsor, Jan. 29, 1835.

Rev. Sir,—The Visiting Missionary in a new country is the pioneer or forerunner of a stationary ministry—"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord." It is his office to propagate the Gospel in remote and neglected settlements, which lie beyond the bounds of any resident Clergyman; and when his ministry has any where been blessed with such fruits as to afford encouragement and occupation for the establishment of a resident pastor, he resigns the duties of that field to some stated fellow labourer, and moves on to fresh wilds and places of destitution, as the instrument, under God, of laying the foundation of other Churches, and originating employment for other Ministers. Thus the itinerant Missionary is constantly pressing upon the march of colonization, and labouring to extend the dominion of the Redeemer's kingdom, wherever the hand of man has subdued the wilderness, and fixed his home.

In this way have my occasional visits to Margaret's Bay been brought to a happy termination. The Church, from small beginnings, had grown and flourished till it seemed ripe for the services of a resident clergyman, and the people having subscribed nearly 90*l.* per annum for his support, the Lord Bishop, with well-timed promptitude, immediately selected a proper person for the station; and I had the satisfaction, in the month of June, to present him for admission to Holy Orders, in presence of the congregation, which was thenceforth committed to his charge.

The episcopal visit of our Diocese to the south-east coast of this province furnished me with employment for my Midsummer vacation. I first proceeded along the shore from Halifax to the Gut of Canso, renewing my former endeavours to prepare the inhabitants for Confirmation. At Canso I met the Bishop, according to appointment; and then returned along the same route, in company with his Lordship, completing, through the efficacy of his hands, the good work which was in preparation. This was the great harvest of my labours in the ministry among these people; and I render thanks to "God that giveth the increase" for making it so abundant. On this occasion, four hundred and thirty members of my flock were admitted to the rite of Confirmation; one hundred and twenty to the Lord's Supper; sixty-seven children were baptized; and one church received Consecration. These results were obtained exclusively on that section of the shore to which my ministrations for the last three summers have been confined; and are independent of what was effected, on the same visitation, in the vicinity of Guysborough, to the instrumentality of which I have little or no claim. From my abode to the termination of the circuit through which my duties lay measures two hundred and fifty miles; and, owing to the uncultivated state of the country, nearly two hundred miles of the distance had to be performed on foot. This journey I accomplished in eighteen days, by gradual advances from settlement to settlement, accompanied by daily, or more than daily, services at twenty different stations.

This coast was settled nearly half a century before the greater part of it was ever blessed with the voice of a preacher. It seems a paradox that a Christian land should be so long destitute of the ordinances of Christianity; that, while Britain was sending forth Missionaries "to preach the everlasting Gospel to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, that dwell on the earth," a portion of her own nation, kindred and tongue, should be abandoned, to "live without God in the world;" yet, I believe, until a very recent date, the whole of this region, with hundreds of inhabitants, was a *terra incognita*; and that the Rev. Mr. Burnyeat, the Society's visiting Missionary, was the first who had the zeal and energy thoroughly to explore it; and so great are the inconveniences, difficulties, and perils, that encounter the itinerant at every step on this desert shore, that, up to the present day, but a very few Missionary visits have reached it; and there are insulated positions, to which the Gospel of salvation had not more than once been carried. Judge, then, the surprise, the delight, and the gratitude of the poor inhabitants (who, in general, deeply feel and deplore their forlorn and destitute condition, as respects their spiritual wants), when they saw a Pre-

late of the Church, with a truly apostolic spirit, seeking out the most desolate settlements, and entering into the most wretched huts on the coast; and every day, nay, I may say, every hour, for a whole month together, earnestly engaged in preaching, confirming, exhorting, visiting the sick, and comforting the needy or afflicted; and it must be manifest, even without my testimony, "that the Churches were established in the faith, and increased in numbers daily," to a degree incomparably greater than by any and every previous effort.

DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

From the Lord Bishop of Quebec.

Toronto, Upper Canada, Dec. 30, 1834.

Dear Sir,—I request you to submit to the Board the following account of my Visitation last summer.

Leaving Quebec on the 12th of June, and stopping at Three Rivers on the 13th, on the following day I crossed over to the south side of the river St. Lawrence, and proceeded to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, at Nicolet. Mr. Chandler contributed largely to the building of the church here, and he and Mrs. Chandler have taken great pains to assemble their Protestant neighbours on the Lord's day in their own house, when divine service was not performed in the church. It is not expedient to support a Clergyman here, the Protestant population being small. However, on the 15th (Sunday) I administered the Lord's Supper to sixteen communicants, and baptized several children.

On the 16th, I proceeded to Colonel Heriot's at Drummondville, on the river St. Francis, and had divine service on the following day; but as it was my intention to return and make this my way to Montreal, the holding of a Confirmation here had been fixed for a future day. Colonel Heriot has done much for the Church, and for this place; but the lands in the immediate neighbourhood not being, in general, good, a very great obstacle is hereby presented to the formation of a flourishing settlement, and the place has not prospered.

The Rev. C. B. Fleming, the Missionary at Shipton and Melbourne, not being aware that I purposed to hold the Confirmation for his neighbourhood on my return, and several candidates for receiving the ordinance having come from a great distance, I confirmed eighteen persons in the church at Shipton, on the 19th. The Rev. Mr. Fleming is a young and active Missionary, and has an extensive charge. In consequence of the reduction of his salary, owing to the withdrawal of the Parliamentary Grant from the funds of the Society, he is now teaching a school, a means of emolument which, in such cases, I cannot object to; but the instruction and superintendence of a school is in general incompatible with the diligent discharge of the duties of a Missionary. The attention due to the school and to the mission interfere with the constant and assiduous services required for each. This, however, will not apply in the same degree to the instruction of a pupil, or two pupils, by a Missionary, especially if they are not children.

From Shipton I proceeded to Sherbrooke. This village, and that of Lennoxville, only four miles apart, and each of them having a church, are under the care of the Rev. Lucius Doolittle, a good and exemplary Clergyman.

My next visit was to the village of Charleston, in the township of Hatley, where I resided for several years after resigning my first mission (to which I was appointed by the Venerable Society in the year 1807) to the Rev. James Reid, who is still the Missionary at St. Armand. I had great satisfaction in visiting my old friends in this place and its vicinity, many of whom, parents and children, I had baptized, and whom I now found walking in the ways of the Lord faithfully. I had also the satisfaction of consecrating the new church, St. James's; a better and more commodious one than the first, which was more than a mile from the village. In the new church I confirmed twenty persons. The good effects of a Temperance Society were very apparent in this part of the country, and I can bear testimony to similar good results in several other Missions in the Diocese, where formerly the habits of the people were far from temperate, while now the use and even sale of spirituous liquor is almost exploded.

On the 3d of July, I visited the adjacent townships of Compton. At this place I was joined by my chap-

lain, the Rev. Samuel Lockhart. A church has been built here by the inhabitants, assisted by a donation of 125*l.* from a fund which I raised in England in the years 1823 and 1824. It is seven miles from Charleston, and the Missionary at Hatley, the Rev. C. Jackson, a good and sensible man, officiates in it every Sunday. A few persons were confirmed, and Mr. Lockhart preached. Here I shall observe, in a general way, that sermons were delivered by myself or my chaplain, wherever a Confirmation was held, or a church consecrated. On Sundays we both preached; and, on other days, when not pursuing our journey, one of us; and where we stopped for the night it was usually our practice to assemble the family, and sometimes a few of their neighbours, and assist them in joining together in prayer and hearing the word of God.

On the 6th, I held a confirmation in the church at Lennoxville, and confirmed twenty-seven persons; and, on the 8th, I confirmed thirteen persons in the church at Eaton. On the 20th, I consecrated the church at Shipton, and in the afternoon confirmed twenty-three persons. Next day we proceeded to Drummondville, and on the 22d twenty-six persons were confirmed. We continued our journey to Montreal; on our way thither we learnt that the cholera was prevailing there. We embarked at William Henry, and found the Archdeacon of Quebec waiting at Montreal for our arrival.

The Archdeacon had made a Visitation upon the north side of the river St. Lawrence, and last of all to the Seigneurie of Beauharnois and the Chateauguay river, lying to the south-west of Montreal. In this part of the country two churches have recently been erected, and there are many new settlers belonging to our Church. These circumstances prove and increase the great want of a Missionary in this extensive and very destitute district; and it is much to be regretted, that, owing to the want of funds for the maintenance of a Minister, there is not a good prospect of a Missionary being speedily supplied. The Right Hon. Edward Ellice, the Seigneur of Beauharnois, was a contributor to one of the churches just mentioned.

After remaining a few days at Montreal, I proceeded up the river Ottawa to the Mission of St. Andrew's, and thence to that of Granville. In the church at the village of St. Andrew's, I confirmed nineteen persons.

On Saturday, the 3d of July, I arrived at Bytown, on the Upper Canada side of the river. This place, and the Mission of Hull, in Lower Canada, are under the charge of the Rev. A. H. Burwell. The congregations at both places have increased, and we now have a church at Bytown. Want of agreement amongst the contributors to it, a common source of difficulty, had interfered with its completion; but I succeeded in uniting them in one plan of operations.

The scenery of this part of the river, embracing the Falls of the Chaudiere on the Ottawa, the falls of the river Rideau, near the Grand Canal, and the bridges and islands in the immediate neighbourhood, is very romantic and picturesque, equal, perhaps, to any in the two Canadas, with the exception only of the Falls of the Niagara.

The ensuing week I devoted to visiting Hull, and to the examination of two candidates for holy orders. I had an interesting meeting with old Mr. Wright, of Hull, who, more than thirty years since, was the first settler in this part of the country, and has been a very distinguished agriculturist. The old gentleman had lately fallen down in the street at Quebec, and dislocated his thigh. His recovery was rather surprising, and I hope it has been blessed to the good of his soul. He lamented to me how much he had been engrossed in business, in agriculture and the lumber trade, and how destitute he had for many years been of the ordinances of religion. He promised that he would now strive to make improvement of them, and that he would endeavour to come forward with several of his family at the approaching Confirmation; and, two days afterwards, I had the satisfaction of confirming in the church himself and some of his sons and daughters and grand children, besides about thirty other persons.

Before Sunday, the 10th, I went to Mr. Pinhay's, at March, and on that day I ordained the Rev. J. Padfield, priest, and Mr. J. G. Geddes, one of the Society's divinity students, deacon. Mr. Padfield had been missionary at March and Huntley for a twelves