

EXTRACTS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE

Of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for 1836.

From the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia.

GAY'S RIVER, N. S.

On Sunday, 28th, June the Rev. Mr. Burnyeat joined us from Musquodobit, ten miles, where he had been attending a dying member of the Church. A large congregation, many of whom were not of our communion, were assembled at eleven o'clock. The church (St. Paul's) and its burial ground were consecrated. I endeavoured from the pulpit to explain the reasonableness and usefulness of these ceremonies; and to guard against the error of considering them as mere forms; pointing out the way in which through the Heavenly blessing, they may be made instrumental, as we humbly trust they were, on this occasion, to the glory of God, the honour of His Church, and the salvation of His people. In the afternoon the church was again well filled, and I endeavoured to give such explanation as was necessary of the rite of confirmation which was now to be administered, for the first time, in a place where few were acquainted with its Scriptural origin, and uninterrupted use in the Church; and where many were probably disposed to think lightly of it. Eighteen persons, who had been properly prepared, received imposition of hands, with every appearance of true devotion; and it was my endeavour to encourage their earnestness, and increase their desire to adorn their holy profession of faith in a Divine Redeemer. The attention throughout the whole of the services was very decorous. At their close, a respectable man, advanced in years, begged to introduce himself to me. He was from the north of Ireland, but had been nearly half a century in this country. He recollected to have seen such ceremonies before he came from home; but observed they were strange sights in this place. He told me that he and his family were Presbyterians, but that he could not fail to acknowledge, as he did with much warmth of feeling, his conviction that such services, when duly performed, must be very edifying. He said that many of the congregation, like himself, were not members of the Church of England; but he thought the piety of all must be inflamed, and every heart filled with Christian love, by the scene in which they had been engaged. He concluded, by expressing a hope that I should soon be called upon, for similar services, at Mosquodobit, in which settlement he resided; and begged I would make his house my lodging-place. The rain was now falling in torrents, and I expressed my regret that he must be exposed to it. The kind reply was, that he would willingly encounter it, after the satisfaction he had enjoyed. The people at Gay's River are very anxious to have a resident Clergyman for their settlement and Mosquodobit, ten miles distant. I assured them of my desire to forward their pious wishes, and earnestly recommended exertions, to assist their support.

MAHONE BAY.

Tuesday, July 7.—This day having been appointed for the services at this place, the Rev. J. T. T. Meody, Missionary at Liverpool, the Rev. Joshua Weeks, Missionary at New Dublin, and the Rev. James Shreve, Missionary at Chester, joined us in good season. The day was remarkably favourable, and at eleven o'clock, the chapel was crowded by more than 500 persons, including many respectable members of the church from Lunenburg. The several roads in view from our vessel had exhibited a lively scene, being covered with the people who were flocking to the service. The chapel was solemnly dedicated to God, and I preached to very attentive hearers, many of whom appeared to listen gladly, and with seriousness. I afterwards confirmed eighteen persons, whom I exhorted to patient perseverance, and lively faith, in the course on which they had now voluntarily entered. A large portion of this flock had already been confirmed, as I had been able to make frequent visits to this part of the country, and had several confirmations in this neighbourhood, in the preceding autumn. Most of the inhabitants of this thickly peopled settlement are Germans, and their descendants. Many of them are Lutherans; but pious Lutherans delight to join in the ser-

VICES of our Church. The people here, who receive attention from the Missionary at Lunenburg, are very desirous to have a Clergyman's uninterrupted services; and the congregation is so large, that it is very desirable their laudable wishes should be gratified. They were urgent to retain permanently, the service of the Rev. Mr. Leaver, much of whose time had lately been devoted to them, and they readily entered into a satisfactory engagement to provide a house for him, and at least 500. a year, to be regularly paid. But I was compelled to fulfil an engagement I had made for sending him to Antigonish, where several congregations would have been left without the ordinances of the Church, upon the removal of Mr. White, if Mr. Leaver had not gone thither. I encouraged the people, however, to hope and to pray, that by the blessing of God, some means might be found for supplying them with a faithful shepherd. We left them in the evening, had a very pleasant run to Margaret's Bay, and anchored at a late hour directly under the church.

KINGSTON, N. B.

Sunday, August 2.—We were thankful to be favoured with very a fine day. The people began to assemble from all parts at an early hour; and soon after ten not less than 500 persons were crowded within Trinity Church. I preached an ordination sermon, and admitted the Rev. W. E. Scovil to the order of Priests. The occasion was deeply interesting; the church had been founded and faithfully served by the grandfather of the present candidates for priest's orders, who was cherished in the affectionate and grateful recollection of the people. The father of the candidate, who presented him at the altar, has trodden in the steps of the founder of the Church, and is beloved by his flock. The prospect of similar blessings from the ministry of an exemplary young man, well known to the people, and known to be worthy of his race, engaged their best feelings and hopes. An allusion to the services and the memory of their first pastor deeply affected many of those who listened to it, and prompted their fervent prayers for that blessing which alone can give value to every labour of the minister of Christ. The Lord's Supper was administered to nearly 100 communicants.

After a short intermission, the church was as closely crowded for an afternoon service as it had been in the morning, and my hearers equally attentive and devout: ninety-nine persons were confirmed, and I preached again to animate them to perseverance in their holy course. I afterwards addressed the Church wardens and Vestry, as in other places, and they promised their best exertions for a full compliance with all which the Society required. It is hardly necessary to add that the state of the Church in this Mission is most encouraging.

RICHMOND, N. B.

Here I met a small but attentive congregation, in a very open and unfinished church. I preached, confirmed twenty persons, and addressed them and the congregation. This place is only five miles from Holt, an American post, garrisoned by a field officer's detachment of 200 men. Two officers from this garrison met me at Richmond, with a very polite invitation to dine and sleep at the fort; and a request that I would officiate there, as many of the officers and soldiers were members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and seldom had divine service except from Mr. Street, whose occasional visits were most thankfully acknowledged. I did not hesitate as to officiating, and if the dinner would not interfere with the service, I readily promised to partake of it; but was sorry my engagements at other places made my return to Woodstock that evening indispensable. My congregation at Holt were very attentive, and they expressed their thanks for the opportunity of attending divine service. Our whole reception was most polite and friendly, and made us regret the necessity for making our visit so short. It was delightful to see the animated regard of the members of the Church, in America, for us as the military surgeon, who is often called, in serious cases, to the sick on our side of the line. He has presented to the church at Richmond all his remuneration for such professional visits. We remained till the day was expended, and then drove more than twelve miles over a wretched road, in a very dark night.

A CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS.

We proceeded as far as carriages could be used, thirteen miles on the road to Mitamichi: at this point the road to Stanley turns suddenly to the left, through a deep forest, and is at present no more than a bad horse-path (seven miles). The most of our party took this path, I preferred the novelty of a passage on the river in a batteau, and especially on account of the river scenery, which is beautiful for the distance, and sometimes very striking. Our boat was drawn by a horse, who was obliged to travel in the river, with a person on his back, as there is no path on the bank. The river was shallow in general, but the current so strong, that the horse was often in difficulty, although ably assisted by three strong and very active men in the boat, who poled her against the stream, and twisted through the rocks with great skill: the horse, however, was sadly harassed—sometimes he stumbled over rocks hidden by water, and sometimes plunged into holes, from which he could hardly extricate himself. The whole expedition was very interesting, though we did not reach Stanley till some time after dark. We were received with torches and bonfires, which afforded a brilliant light, and gave us an appropriate welcome to this woodland scene. This place has been occupied and improved with great zeal and taste and judgment, as an encouragement to the settlement of the wilderness. The first tree was cut down in August, 1834; 150 acres are now cleared, and a large portion of this cleared land is under crop. The house in which we lodged has been built for an inn; and, like all the other houses and cottages, displays excellent architectural taste combined with economy; the whole is beautiful, and exhibits more encouragement to settle in the forest, than I have ever seen in so early a state of improvement. Mr. and Mrs. Kendal had brought from Fredericton every thing that was necessary for our comfort, and by their very kind attention made this visit to the woods a very delightful part of our excursion. Every thing appeared enlivening, and yet there was a tranquillity that of itself would have infused content and enjoyment. We were as happy with our wooden benches and temporary tables of rough boards, as polished mahogany, or a soft couch could have made us. The people too, gathered round us, and seemed so happy that we could not fail to partake of their cheerfulness. We were not in an unfit frame of mind to close the employment of a busy day, with thankfulness to Him, whose blessing can reach every situation and every condition; and whose presence may as surely be found in the stillest retirement of the few as in the crowded congregation of the many.

Friday, August 21.—The hours here, like all things else, were primitive; and at six, a congregation of sixty persons were assembled, in a shed, which was conveniently prepared for our service. The commendable example of the agent and his family was cheerfully imitated, and all wre on their knees for the humble offering of their prayers. I preached the first sermon that was delivered on this spot, and endeavoured to adapt it to the occasion, and to the place, where, only a few months before our thus assembling, the untamed tenants of the forest were the only occupants. I endeavoured to raise and to guide the hearts and desires of my hearers (through the only way) to that Father of mercies, whose blessing can supply spiritual food in the midst of the wilderness as easily as he can clothe the lily, and feed the raven. I concluded with the beautiful and affecting hymn of Bishop Heber, for the fourth Sunday in Lent, every line of which appeared particularly applicable to my present hearers, and to their peculiar situation. After the service, I baptized a child, the second born in this place; and improved the opportunity for offering serious advice to the parents, sponsors, and friends, who were gathered round them: all appeared to receive it gladly and thankfully.

GREENWICH, N. B.

Wednesday, the 26th August, was the most unpropitious day of my summer labours. It rained most violently. Our only road to the church at Greenwich (eighteen miles), was a bridle path, and much of it ran through a thick forest. We could not advance a mile without being thoroughly wet but there was no avoiding this, and we made up our minds for all the discomfort from which we could not escape. We