

the necessity of a strict and devoted attention to the ordinances and teaching of the Apostolic Church. On Sunday, the 16th, at St. Luke's Church, Woodstock, Morning Prayer was said at 11 A.M., by the Rev. Mr. Medley, and the Lessons and Ante-Communion service by the Rector. Thirty-one candidates were then presented for confirmation. The Bishop again delivered one of his usual interesting and impressive addresses to a large and overflowing congregation, dwelling especially on the subject of "christian duties." He explained in clearest terms, the meaning of the phrase, "christian calling," and dwelt at some length on this subject, cautioning his hearers against the vices and temptations common to the present age, while he placed before them the various duties and obligations imposed upon all and exhorted them to greater energy and perseverance in their due performance. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was then administered to 81 communicants, the Lord Bishop consecrating, and being assisted in the distribution of the elements by the Rector and the other clergy present. At 3½ P.M. service was held in Christ's Church, Woodstock, when the Rev. Mr. Medley preached from St. Mark, 11, 12, 13 and 14; at 6½ P.M. service was again held in St. Luke's Church, when prayers were said by the Rev. C. Medley, and the Lessons read by the Rector. After the Second Lesson, holy baptism was administered by the Bishop, assisted by the Rector; the recipient being the infant son of one of the parishioners, John C. Winslow, Esq. His Lordship preached a most deeply impressive sermon from Psalm cxix. 69, 70.

On the following morning, previous to his departure, the Bishop, by special request, united a couple in the bands of matrimony at Christ Church, after which he proceeded homewards. His Lordship seemed much pleased with his whole journey, and was in unusually good spirits. It is much to be regretted that it is almost impossible to give any correct idea of the able and impressive style and manner of the Bishop's various addresses and sermons. The ripened scholar, and eloquent teacher—he commands attention where it is least looked for; while his many noble qualities bind him with a warm affection to the hearts of his people. May he long live to preside over the affairs of the Church in this Diocese, and when his course is ended, may he enter upon that rest which "remaineth for the people of God."

NEW DIOCESE OF COLUMBIA.

(From the Mission Field.)

We have much pleasure in laying before our readers the following letter from the Bishop:—

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, May 8, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR,—I commence my correspondence with the venerable Society under feelings of no common interest.

I know the history of those early labours which God at length has blest with marvellous spread of his Church and truth.

I fervently trust the same blessing awaits its labours in this Diocese.

May our communications result in the advancement of Christ's kingdom, the saving of souls, and the glory of our God.

2. All I have seen and heard during the four months since my arrival convinces me of the important position these two extensive colonies must occupy at an early period.

A climate like England, magnificent scenery, a fertile soil, unbounded mineral wealth, abundant fisheries, timber of the finest description, good harbours, render the only British possession on the Pacific coast of America highly attractive to the disposition and enterprise of our race.

3. The population consists for the most part of

emigrants from California, a strange mixture of all nations, most difficult to reach. A large proportion have long been unused to religious opportunities, although amongst them are those who will welcome the minister of Christ.

An idea of this mixture may be afforded by one instance, that of the town of Douglas, in British Columbia. Out of two hundred, thirty-five only are British subjects. The rest are Germans, French, Italians, Africans, Chinese, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Americans.

The gold-mining district is confined to the main land, and extends along some 400 miles from the town of Hope, on the lower Fraser, to the Quessel River, a branch of the Fraser in the north.

Thousands are engaged along this line, in parties varying from twelve to two hundred.

The agricultural settlers at present are not numerous. I have visited some. They are destitute entirely of the means of grace. Many men are living unmarried with Indian women.

The most recent reports from the mines are of an exciting character, and will attract many thousands more to our shores. The Chinese are arriving in great numbers, and ten thousand are said to be on their way from China.

4. The native race in both colonies is numerous. I have visited various tribes; some are more intelligent than others. There is desire of improvement, and ambition to be like the whites. It is a common thing for Indians to be dressed in the best European costume. The other day I observed two women in round hats and ribbon and extended crinoline! I mistook them for English, but on coming up found their faces besmeared with red paint.

The men are universally employed in labour, for which they are paid from 10s. to 20s per week.

Poor creatures! they imitate freely the white man's vices. I saw an Indian running round and round in a circle. He was intoxicated, and almost a maniac. I listened to the sounds he was shouting. They were the words of a blasphemous and obscene oath in English! It is a common thing for Indians, even children, to utter oaths in English. Thus far they have come in close contact only with our vices. We have yet to bring amongst them the leavening blessing of the Gospel of Christ.

5. I have at present but eight clergy. Of these, two are supplied by the Society.

Both Mr. Gammage and Mr. Pringle are working well, and have exhibited much patient endurance.

Mr. Dowson, as you probably have heard, is gone home; his resignation, in consequence of the state of his wife's health, was announced in the last number of the *Mission Field*.

6. I hope the Society will send out at once several additional men. We are, I feel thankful to say, early and well on the ground. By God's blessing we may lay the foundation of our pure and holy religion with the very first people, and establish a lasting claim to love and adherence by the promptitude and, we trust, the efficiency with which the mother Church will have ministered to the spiritual wants of this our youngest colony.

(a) For the Indians twenty missionaries might readily be employed. We should have, however, at once, not less than four, two for Vancouver, two for Columbia. I purpose to establish an Institution at this place, near several Indian villages. Towards the building I hope the Society will allow me to use the £400 granted to Mr. Dowson for a house, and thus a residence would be provided for the missionary you send out in his place.

We have commenced the mission in tents.

The Roman Catholics are actively at work. Several French priests are constantly in the In-

dian villages. They baptise the children of heathen parents, and give to all a cross, which is suspended as a charm about the neck of the infant.

They certainly have succeeded in lessening drunkenness; but their principal teaching is the worship of the Virgin, and hatred of the Americans and English, while the French are exalted and extolled.

It is stated that twenty or thirty priests are on their way out from Europe.

(b) Then for the white population we need immediately an addition of ten."

The Bishop gives the name and position of the several places, and then proceeds:—

"Thus, then, our immediate want is the aid of fourteen able, faithful, and zealous missionaries. I earnestly hope the Society will largely assist me.

7. There are peculiar difficulties in our work here. The population is of such a kind as to require men of no ordinary ability and tact.

The large proportion of estranged and foreign people renders any considerable support unlikely for a long time.

Expense of living is great. Most things at least a third above the price in England; many double. Labour, 10s. a day; skilled labour, 20s. and upwards. Meat, 1s. a pound. A wooden cottage of four rooms, £70 a year. Female servants not to be had; men, £70 and £100 a year, and board. This is the state of things here; up the country, prices are double and treble.

8. We are not, however, without encouragement. My first Confirmation (of thirty-three candidates,) on Sunday week, was refreshing to my spirit. A deep impression has been made, and our work is strengthened. God be praised!

An interesting incident has occurred in the conversion of a Roman Catholic priest. I met him on board the steamer on my passage. He had previously been in communion with Bishop Kip, who received him at the Holy Communion a few Sundays ago. He is now living in my house, preparing for active ministry in due time. The Rev. Louis Donatus Rivieccio is a young man of great ability, professor of Latin and philosophy at the R. C. Seminary in Francisco. He preaches, not only in his own Italian language, but in Spanish and French, and may become of the greatest use in teaching the various people of his own and other races.

The coloured race, (African,) of whom there are many, are looking much to us as the only religious body which has stood out for their equal rights, especially in the house of God. The Congregationalists, supported by the British Colonial Missionary Society (London,) who were especially appealed to, and even the Romanists, have given way to the American caste prejudice.

Several of the coloured people are devout communicants.

9. This is an important time for the purchase of land, while cheap, for endowment. The Society would do well to make a grant for this object. I believe thereto a special fund of that kind.

10. Where you send out clergy, by no means oblige them to go round Cape Horn. The discomforts are such that few men can go through the ordeal without moral damage. Much misery and expense have already forced me to this conclusion.

I must now conclude.

May I ask you to present my kind and respectful remembrance to the committee. I crave an interest in their prayers. May the Divine blessing ever rest upon your counsels, and crown your undertaking with success.

Ever faithfully yours,

G. COLUMBIA."