

"Such is the happy change, in position and in feeling, which has been brought about during the last three years. And I may add, that the Newcastle Church Society, which I was enabled to form last month, has begun its work most successfully; while such is the cordial co-operation of the whole body of my clergy in carrying out their Bishop's wishes and plans, that there will be a district or parochial association, in connexion with the general Society, formed in every district of the diocese.

"It is my earnest desire to provide sound superior religious education for children of all ages and classes in my diocese; and if I can accomplish this, the strength and attachment which will accrue to the Church are incalculable.

"I desire to establish a commercial and a grammar school, as the necessary intermediate links between the primary schools and the colleges at Raymond Terrace and at Morpeth. I have announced to my diocese, that all children who are diligent in the primary schools, and really profit by the teaching in them, shall be assisted in their further education, by having superior schools provided for them, and by being in part supported at such schools. Thus I have promised that I will establish, at Maitland, my largest town, a superior commercial school; at Newcastle, a Church grammar school; at Raymond Terrace, a collegiate institution; while I train up under my own eye, at Morpeth, my candidates for orders, and my young deacons.

"The whole sum required for the commercial school is £1200., and for the grammar school £1500. My urgent entreaty is that your Society would grant £100 towards the establishment of a grammar or commercial school at Maitland, and £500 towards a grammar school at Newcastle, extending the grant over two years, and giving me authority to draw upon them for £450 during 1852, and for £450 during 1853. This I ask, reminding you that I have laid the whole burden of erecting churches and parsonages on the members of our Church in each district; and promising that I will not apply for any other grant of moment for some years to come.

"Expressing my heartfelt thanks for the most liberal assistance which your Society has already afforded to me, I am, &c."

Copies of the Report of the Newcastle Church Society, established April, 1851, were laid before the Meeting.

The Standing Committee gave notice that at the next General Meeting, on the 2nd of December, they would propose that £900 be granted for the objects stated in the Bishop of Newcastle's letter; namely, £500 towards a grammar school at Newcastle and £400 towards a grammar or commercial school at Maitland.

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Quebec, Sept 6, 1851, recommending an application which he forwarded from the Rev. F. A. Smith, Missionary at Mal Bay and Sandy Beach, in behalf of new churches proposed to be built at those stations.

It was agreed that the sum of £200 be placed in the Bishop's hands for new churches; and that his Lordship be requested to assign from this amount such sums as he may judge right for Mal Bay and Sandy Beach, respectively.

December, 1851.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON in the Chair.

THE Standing Committee, in pursuance of notice duly given at the last General Meeting, proposed that £900 be granted for the objects stated in the Bishop of Newcastle's letter of May 28, 1851; namely, £500 towards a grammar school at Newcastle, and £400 towards a grammar or commercial school at Maitland.

It was agreed that these grants should be made accordingly.

A letter was read from the Venerable Archdeacon Shortland, who is now in England, forwarding a plan of Christ Church, on the Mount Road, in Madras; this being one of the churches in Southern India, towards the erection of which a grant was made by the Society.

The Archdeacon wrote as follows:—

"The congregation connected with this church consists of about 700 persons, principally East Indians, for whom no provision whatever, as regards church accommodation, has been made by the Government; and I am happy to say, that two excellent schools for boys and girls are attached to the church; and that, in

addition to the marked liberality already manifested by the individual members of the congregation in the gift of the site, with an organ, clock, reading-desk, and pulpit, &c., the people are now proposing to build a parsonage-house. The situation of the church is particularly central, and thus it will be at the same time an ornament to the town of Madras, and another witness for Christ and for our beloved Church in a country lying in heathen darkness and the shadow of death.

"Perhaps the Board may feel disposed to assist this good work with a small grant of Bibles and Prayer Books, and books for the school, and towards a library for this formerly destitute congregation."

A plan of the church was laid before the Meeting.

It was agreed to grant Bibles, Prayer Books, and Tracts to the value of £8 for the objects stated in the Archdeacon's letter.

The following letter from the Lord Bishop of Cape Town, Sept. 25, 1851, was read to the Meeting:—

"I have much pleasure in forwarding a letter of thanks to the Society from our coloured congregation in George, for the grant of £50 towards the erection of a school-chapel in that town. The Archdeacon in transmitting it says, 'The poor people are, I am convinced, truly grateful. It is signed by 246. There would have been more signatures, but many are absent in Caffirland with the levy. In the letter an allusion is made to their want of books. They hope that your Lordship will approve of, and forward it for them to the Society.' I have had a translation of their letter made, which I also enclose.

"I have very nearly exhausted my applications for churches; but I am anxious to bring under the notice of the Society the case of Stellenbosch, to which I have already alluded in previous letters. The population in that village is upwards of two thousand. Our English congregation is not very large, and consists almost exclusively of poor people. There are no other English services held there than those conducted by the clergyman whom I sent there nearly two years since. They hold service at present in a school-room, but are most anxious to erect a church. Should the Society be enabled to make a grant equal to that given to other villages similarly circumstanced in this diocese, it would be a great encouragement to them to proceed.

"The deep distress into which this country is plunged by the war and rebellion, and the ruin which has overtaken our whole frontier, have necessarily checked our efforts in various places. Several churches are now standing half finished; others have not been commenced; and some who had pledged themselves liberally to the support of the Church are now reduced to receive alms which we have been raising for them in the west."

The Board granted £100 towards the church at Stellenbosch.

It was agreed that Dutch Prayer Books, as soon as the version is finished, and other Dutch publications, to the value of £10., should be forwarded for the inhabitants of George.

The following translation of the Address of the coloured inhabitants of George to the members of the Society was laid before the Meeting:—

"We, the undersigned coloured inhabitants of George Town, who have joined the United Church of England and Ireland (a branch of which has been established in the colony of the Cape of Good Hope), take the liberty hereby to present and convey to the benevolent and venerable members of this charitable Society our sincere and heartfelt thanks for the grant of £50., the receipt of which has been communicated to us by our dearly beloved Father in God, The Right Reverend and very learned Robert Gray, Lord Bishop of Cape Town.

"Thus, then, through the sincere Christian concern of our Bishop, all, without distinction of person, colour, or station, may be brought to the knowledge of God in Christ.

"Hitherto we have been obliged, like the persecuted professors of Christianity in early times, to wander from place to place for the purpose of celebrating Divine worship, not having the means to build a house unto the Lord; but now, favoured by God, and received into the communion of the Church of England, we have been enabled, through the kind assistance of her ministers, by means of contributions raised among friends in England as well