

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1836.

CHURCH IN LUNENBURG.—In our last we proceeded with our memoranda, as far down as the year 1757. In the Missionary's reports for two or three following years, there does not occur much worthy of note. The affairs of the mission appear to have gone on harmoniously, there being but one flock and one shepherd.

On the 5th January 1760, the General Assembly addressed the Governor (Lawrence) requesting him to use his influence with the Lords of Trade and the Society, that a missionary of the Church of England who understood the German and English languages if possible, and if not an English clergyman, and schoolmaster, be sent out with proper maintenance. The Governor, who died in this year and is described as "a man of great acquirements, sincerely religious, and having a zealous regard for the established church"—recommended to the Society the appointment of an *itinerant* missionary whose headquarters should be at Lunenburg. This does not seem to have been acted upon until 1762, when the Board of Trade presented to the Society the necessity of a new mission among the German settlers at Lunenburg, &c. "who understand English well and are desirous of uniting themselves and children into one congregation under the church of England government."

The Rev. JOSEPH BENNETT was accordingly appointed itinerant missionary, and directed to officiate chiefly at Lunenburg, but occasionally at such other townships as the Governor should direct. He was in his 34th year, recommended as a "man of good temper, prudence, and learning, of a sober and pious conversation, zealous for the christian religion, and thoroughly well affected to the present government." This gentleman was but a short time employed here, having been removed in the next year to the charge of the settlements in Hants' and King's Counties. While we have to lament the scanty materials that remain for a record of the labours here and elsewhere of these early missionaries, it is yet very satisfactory to observe the decided testimony to their worth which was borne by the public authorities of the day. Governor Belcher, who took a warm interest in the affairs of the Society, and in the welfare of the Church, and must have been eminently useful while as yet it did not enjoy the advantages of episcopal care,—acknowledges in this year the advantages derived to the province from the pious labours and prudence of the Society's missionaries, and takes notice that the church of England is so much respected, that persons of all denominations generally attend the public worship of the church, when destitute of congregational services. Also, that the General Assembly had passed a law not only for establishing the church of England, but for finishing the parish church of St. Paul in Halifax at an expense of £12,000 sterling, and have also joined in a subscription for an organ.—At this time most of the new townships were without ministers of any description; and St. Paul's at Halifax was frequented by persons of all denominations, among whom great harmony prevailed. But to return to Lunenburg—it is stated that there were at this period 596 children in the place under the age of 12 years.—Governor Belcher mentions that for the better instruction of these, and the more effectual supply of the spiritual wants of the mission, he had engaged the Rev. Mr. VINCENT, as a second missionary, and likewise as schoolmaster at Lunenburg, with such allowances as the government could make, though that "would be by no means equal to his labours." Testimony is borne by Governor Belcher to the known abilities, exemplary life, and unwearied application of Mr. Vincent. A convenient school-house was fitted up and a Mr. Newman appointed school-master. The population of the mission is represented at 300 families, or 1500 souls, of whom about 250 were French, and English was universally spoken by the young.—The attendance upon Divine service was encour-

aging, and their behaviour proper. The yearly baptisms were about 89—communicants on Whit Sunday 150.—Mr. Vincent continued to minister here until his death which happened in 1765. Shortly before that period he stated that a desire had arisen among the Germans to introduce a German minister, and that timber was prepared for the erection of a meeting house, but that the younger part of the congregation were averse to the measure.

It will be new to some of our readers to be informed that at this period the Indians formed part of the spiritual charge of our clergy in this province. Mr. Moreau at Lunenburg reports his having met with great success among them, that he had baptized several of their children, and united some in matrimony—that they "behaved with great decency in religious ceremonies"—and that he expected they would soon become a part of his regular congregation, almost all understanding the French language.

It may not be amiss here, although not strictly pertaining to the parochial history of Lunenburg, to relate an interesting celebration of Indian worship which occurred in St. Paul's Church, Halifax, in July 1767.

Mr. Wood the missionary there informed the Society, that having studied the Micmac language closely for several years, he now found himself able to read the prayers (which he had previously translated) to the Indians in their own tongue. This he appears to have done for the first time at the above mentioned date, in the presence of the Hon. Lord W. Campbell, Col. Dalrymple, and most of the officers of the Navy and Army, and the inhabitants of the town.—An anthem was sung by the Indians before and after Divine service—and an Indian chief came forward from the rest, and, kneeling down, prayed the Almighty to bless his Majesty George III.—their lawful king and governor, and all the royal family. He prayed also for the Governor, and for the prosperity of the Province at large. He then rose up and Mr. Wood, at his desire, explained the prayer to the whole congregation. At the conclusion of the service, it is stated that they all fervently thanked God, and his instrument the Governor, and Mr. Wood, for the gratifying privilege they had just enjoyed, of hearing the prayers of the church in their own tongue in which they were born. On the 12th August in the same year, Mr. Wood married Pierre Jacques, an Indian, to Marie Joseph, eldest daughter of old king Thomas, who looks upon himself as hereditary king of the Micmacs, in the presence of Sir Thomas Rich, Baronet, and many other gentlemen. These facts are given as shewing the connexion then subsisting in this province between the Indians and the church of England, but which unhappily seems now to have entirely ceased,—why or how, it is not easy to tell.

After the death of Mr. Vincent, the Society made exertions to send to Lunenburg a clergyman understanding the German language, as well on account of the inhabitants already there, who desired it as for the benefit of the numbers of Germans expected from Philadelphia and Germany. All were disposed to join the church if such a one was sent. Mr. Moreau speaks in very pleasing terms of the state of the congregation at Lunenburg at this period.—He describes it as "decent and devout, and increasing so fast that he hopes soon to see it one of the most flourishing on the continent, as well as remarkably distinguished by attachment to principles of the church of England, and by genuine holiness."

LIVERPOOL.—The memoir of this Parish in our 7th number will perhaps be in the recollection of our readers. Though of so late an origin as 1820, it may be considered as one of the most flourishing in Nova-Scotia. In none within our knowledge is attendance upon the public services of the church more exemplary or more general, and the congregation is distinguished by a steadfast, and, at the same time, a liberal attachment to the church of their choice. We were delighted by the evidence of this which the late clerical meeting there called forth, on which occasion the congregations were good, and upwards of forty communicants were gathered around the Altar; which latter circumstance, when the writer recollects that ten years ago not one fourth of the number were to be found

there even on the Sabbath day, is a gratifying proof of the advancement of the Church. One of these communicants lacking two months only of fourscore, walked in ten miles before morning service.—There were present four of the clergy, and Divine service was performed three times in the town, and once at the chapel at Eagle head.

BISHOP'S VISITATION.—We received a memorandum of his Lordship's appointments too late for insertion in our last paper. It was his intention after leaving Windsor on the 22d July, to spend Sunday 24th at Truro; Monday 25th, Pictou Mines; 26th to 28th, at Antigonish and its neighbourhood; 29th to 31st, at Guysborough, Canso, &c. To be at Pictou, Aug. 3; P. E. Island, 4th; Miramichi, Bathurst, Chatham, Baie de Vin, &c. from 5th to 14th; Charlotte Town, St. Eleanor's, New London, &c. in P. E. Island from the 15th to 22d; and to cross to Pictou on the 23d inst. We hope to be favoured with some notice from each place of the services performed in this extensive route.

DARTMOUTH.—We find from Halifax papers that the Bishop held a confirmation in Christ's Church, Dartmouth, on Wednesday 20th ult. when upwards of 30 persons were admitted to that holy rite. At the conclusion of the service, his Lordship delivered an impressive address from the Altar, in which he explained with great earnestness the nature and importance of the ordinances, and the solemn obligations contracted by those who thus publicly dedicated themselves to the service of their God.

BISHOP WHITE.—We deeply regret to have to record the death of this venerated patriarch of the American Episcopal Church, at Philadelphia on the 17th July, in the 90th year of his age, and 50th of his episcopate. He had presided at the consecration of thirty-one Bishops, and is believed to have been the oldest Protestant Bishop in the world. Few have gone down to the grave more honoured of men, of every denomination; and we trust he receives from the great Shepherd of all, that crown of glory which "fadeth not away."

NEW BRUNSWICK.—We hear that the Archdeacon of this province has received the Bishop's instructions to call its Clergy together in the course of the summer.

To our Canada Correspondents.

To save the expense of postage and the trouble of sending hither small sums, we request our friends in Canada to pay their subscriptions to the Hon. A. W. COCHRAN, Quebec, and if possible in money current in Nova-Scotia. Terms 11s.3d. per annum, including postage—payable in advance.

MARRIED.

In this town, on Thursday evening the 28th ult. by the Rev. J. C. Cochran, Mr. Robert Scott, merchant, to Eliza, eldest daughter of John Heckman, Esq.

DIED.

At Halifax, on 2d inst. in the 11th year of his age, William James, eldest child of Mr. M. B. Almon.

CONSECRATION OF THE BISHOP OF MICHIGAN.

I had the pleasure, yesterday, of witnessing, in St. Paul's Church, the high solemnity of the consecration of Mr. McCoskry to the Episcopate of Michigan. Bishop White has been very sick for several days; and, though the duty was postponed from Tuesday to Thursday, in the hope that he might be brought to the Church, he was unable to attend; and the consecration was performed by Bishops H. U. Onderdonk, Doane, and Kemper. A number of the clergy were present; two of whom were in attendance on the bishop elect, two conducted the morning service, and two read the documents. Bishop Kemper preached. After the sermon, and immediately before the two junior bishops presented the bishop elect, a letter was read from Bishop White to the three officiating bishops, "communicating" to them the testimonials, agreeably to the canon, and requesting them to hold the consecration on that day. After this the interesting services proceeded as usual on such occasions. There was a crowded congregation, and a large number of communicants. And I have no doubt that my own feeling was the general one—that of sincere regret that our venerable man of God was unable to confer the high commission on our thirty-second bishop, as he did on all the others, except one, who were consecrated in this country. The three bishops, however, fulfilled their duty with great accuracy; and the whole solemnity was imposing, and of deep interest. Michigan may now rejoice, and so may our whole Church, in the acquisition of so excellent a bishop.—N. P. Churchman.