

head propensities?—This cursed fight between north and south is only the necessary result of forgetting that there is a God. A nation made up of all races especially needed the binding influence of truthfulness and reverence; but they have them not, and the result is, America, the boasted union, is just like unannealed glass, ready to fly into a thousand pieces. California, Oregon, and W. Territory will within the next twenty years be a Pacific Republic, perhaps within three years. Separated by a range of lofty mountains, and possessed of numerous resources, these states cannot stand long the tremendous tariff weighing down their interest and clogging their progress. I trust that the furnace through which the Americans are now going will fine them to greater reverence to God and holiness.

"This is a lovely island and beautiful climate. Victoria is a fast increasing place, and will, I believe, be the vast depot of English goods, for the Pacific coast, Japan and China, and Australia oven. My house is building in New Westminster on the main land, and I hope to get into it about the first week in April; it is beautifully situated on the banks of the noble Fraser. The Bishop of Columbia (Dr. Hill,) is doing wonders here by his organizing skill; we have now a bishop and 15 clergy well posted: churches, parsonages, houses, and schools are rising in all directions, in a word the church is getting a sound footing in these colonies. Will you kindly send me all the pamphlets and papers you can secure for me from the several dioceses in Canada, New Brunswick, &c. Please work this up for us well—*every thing*—all about synods, church societies, and your own remarks and writings of what has not worked well.

N.B.—Thus for my friend's very interesting letter. One or two indistinct words I have marked thus (?) I shall be happy to receive from any friend of the British Columbia Mission, one of the most important in the world, such documents as the writer wishes to get, and forward them to him through his English agent.

A. T.

## ONTARIO DIOCESE.

## ANOTHER PRESENTATION TO THE BISHOP ELECT OF ONTARIO

On the 22nd ult., the parish of Hawkesbury, C. W., presented the Rev. Dr. Lewis, Bishop Elect of the new Diocese of Ontario, with a very handsome and valuable family Bible, a beautiful Signet-ring, and a well filled purse, to be expended in purchasing the necessary "seals of office," and in paying a share of the expenses connected with the consecration. The Bible is the "English imperial," Oxford edition, printed at the University press, and is richly bound in purple morocco and gold. The ring contains a very handsome onyx stone, on which is engraved the "mitre" and Bishop's initials, &c. The outside of the Bible and ring contain the following inscription:—

"Presented to the first Bishop of Ontario,  
from his former  
Parishioners at Hawkesbury, C. W."

The valuable presents are praiseworthy and exemplary tokens of the deep affection which exists in the hearts of his former parishioners towards their now Diocesan.—*The Ontario Episcopal Gazette.*

## PHILIPSBURG, ST. ARMAND WEST.

From what has been published in the *Church Chronicle*\* it appears that the first effort to plant the Church of England east of the Richelieu,

\* p. 153 vol. 11.

commenced at Philipsburg by the Rev. James Tunstall, January, 1801, whose register shows entries from the 20th of that month to the 17th of May, 1802,—to which little is to be added, except that though he resided at that village, he probably made occasional visits to some of the eastern townships, as far as Shefford at least, as the late Capt. Savage with a good natured Irish smile, told the writer of this, that he was a rather strange man. Being accustomed to sleep with pistols under his pillow. Next came a Mr. Short, whose stay was like his name, and of whose labours there are no records. The next clergyman who occupied St. Armand, together with Dunham, was the Rev. Charles Calch Cotton, B.A., of Oxford.

Mr. Cotton describes the difficulty which he met with in bringing the people into church ways, and mentions as an instance of the little regard they had for religious rites, that they commonly went before a magistrate to be married, simply because it was the cheaper way. When we add that the whole number of communicants at Christmas was six, and at Easter five, it will be obvious that religion was at a very low ebb.

In the "Annals of the Diocese of Quebec"—a copy of which was kindly presented to the writer by the author, the Rev. Ernest Hawkins, B.D. it is stated that the Hon. and Rev. C. J. Stewart, a man clothed in humility, and whose praise is in all the churches, reached St. Armand on the 21st Oct., 1807. In the register which contains a large number of baptisms of children, and many of adults, together with some marriages and funerals, performed by him in St. Armand, Christie, and Caldwell Manors, St. John's, &c., it is recorded that Mr. Cotton left St. Armand, and Mr. Stewart took possession of the mission on the 28th March, 1808.

The same very interesting authority informs us that, "putting up at the only tavern in the village of Frelighsburg, he asked the landlord if he would let him have the only good sized room in the house, and being answered in the affirmative, he directed him to prepare it the next day for a congregation, and to give as general a notice as possible, that he, a clergyman of the Church of England, would then and there perform divine service, and preach the gospel. Upon this the honest-hearted landlord endeavoured to dissuade him from his purpose, informing him that not very long before a preacher had come to settle there, but that after remaining some time he had found the people so wicked and abandoned, he left in despair. "Then," answered the warm-hearted missionary, "this is the very place of duty for me—here I am needed, and by God's grace here will I remain, and trust to Him in whose hands are the hearts of all people for success."

Mr. Stewart concludes his first letter to the S. P. G. (April 22nd, 1808) by expressing his feelings that "with faith in Christ, and gratitude to God, under the continuance of his blessing, the mission may be considered a flourishing one."

In a letter to his mother, the Countess of Galloway, dated St. Armand, 20th May, 1808, among other interesting things, he says, "The people are worse in appearance, or rather in manner, than in reality or principle. They are free and rude, but less profligate than in our country. I find sincere christians of all denominations; and no wonder they are divided, where they have no teachers except Methodists and Baptists, and they very ignorant. Many are willing to be instructed by me, and more have been out of the way of, and inattentive to the true religion, than aversing to it. In short, they suit my object—of being useful to them and the church of Christ—fully equal to my expectations, and beyond those of

almost everybody far and near. But my success and happiness are summed up in the assurance that God has blessed me in all my plans to a great and evident degree. I never was so much engaged in the exercises of religion, as I have been since I came to St. Armand; I never was happier.

"I have persuaded the people to build a church, and it will be fit for divine service to be performed in it before next winter. I have assisted in several ways. So you see I am very busy, but it is for the sake of God, and of heaven; and there and with Him are my chief treasure and happiness. And so does He bless me, that His gospel (Mark x. 29 30) is in a manner realized to me; and I could sometimes almost say with Jesus, that every faithful christian is 'my brother, and sister, and mother.' Yet is my affection for you and my relations increased."

At the end of a year's service (Nov. 5) Mr. Stewart informs the Society that his situation continues to be satisfactory to himself, and, as he believes, profitable to the church. That it really was so may be inferred from certain recorded facts. Early in the year 1809, a new church was completed in the eastern part of the Seigniorie, and when Divine service was performed the first time, on a fine day in January there was a congregation of a thousand persons. His communicants in this division were twenty seven, and in the western division, seventeen; and both the congregations showed the interest which they felt in the Psalmody of the church by engaging a singing-master. Mr. Stewart, to encourage them in their endeavours to improve this portion of the church-service, prepared a small selection of Psalms and Hymns, which he had printed in Montreal.

In August, 1809, the Bishop of Quebec (Dr. Mountain) visited St. Armand, and confirmed sixty persons. Here surely were visible proofs of the missionary labours. He did not however confine his service to the people of his own particular mission, but was in the habit of making missionary excursions into the neighbouring townships, where there were neither church nor clergymen; and where, but for his occasional visits, the settlers would have had no opportunity of participating in any of the ordinances of religion. On these occasions he used to perform divine service, preach, celebrate marriages, and administer the sacraments. Great numbers of children, and not a few adults, were thus from time to time baptized. In 1811 Mr. Stewart had the privilege of opening a new church in the western portion, when, as he informs us, "a great concourse of people assembled in it." Till his arrival there was not a single church in the whole of that district which was known by the name of the Eastern Townships, and which even at that time contained a population of 40,000 souls. That which was built in the village of Frelighsburg, St. Armand East, was the very first erected in that part of Canada.

The second church was that which was erected in St. Armand West, and called in honour of the apostle of the Gentiles, St. Paul; it was about 65 feet long and 39 wide, and was surmounted by a steeple, the cost of the whole being about £800. This is a large sum for a new settlement, but contributions were received from St. John's, Montreal, Quebec, and other places; and the successor of Mr. Stewart, without pretending to be exactly informed, stated it as his impression, from old recollections that the two churches together cost him about £600.

In 1812, and for some time afterwards, the minds of the settlers were much agitated by apprehensions of an attack from the republican troops; in point of fact, many of the families