

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, SEPT. 5, 1857.

NINETEENTH REPORT D O B.

FOLLOWING in the train of our observations of last week, upon a subject so interesting to the Church as the efficiency of the D. C. S., we may adduce as corroborative proof that Churchmen do not take that interest in it that they ought to do, the number of names on the Halifax list of subscribers, and the sum total of their subscriptions.

St. Paul's parish is considered to be the wealthiest portion of the Diocese. It undoubtedly comprises within its bounds many very wealthy Churchmen. As might therefore be reasonably expected, it contributes the largest amount to the funds of the Society of any parish in the Diocese. Yet the list furnishes only 353 names, of whom not more than three fourths are adults. These represent a yearly contribution of £220 7 8. The highest amount is, in two instances, £10, the lowest 7d. This averages 12s. 6d for each person. There are only 176 subscribers in St. George's Parish. The highest contribution is £2 5 in one instance, the lowest 2d. The amount collected for the year is, less expenses, £38 7 8, average for each person 4s. 6d. nearly. Out of its contributions St. George's however has managed to receive back, in a series of years, towards its own endowment, the sum of £138 8 11. It will not do therefore to contrast St. George's with St. Paul's, in the matter of liberality. The attendants at the Bishop's Chapel, made up from both parishes, and of strangers and sojourners amongst us, to the number of 51, have subscribed £10 16 3, averaging 4s. 3d. each, and this is nearly as much as St. George's, and with no drawback from the general purposes of the Society.

It may be said to the credit of St. Paul's, as we think will be conceded, that all its subscriptions have been given to the general objects of the D. C. S., and that no reservation has been made, except in individual cases, for special purposes. The returns for St. Paul's also show that £24 13 6 have been made up for the Widows and Orphans fund, almost all exclusive of the general subscription. St. George's shows no contribution towards this object. Although we are persuaded that neither of these Parishes does the full extent of its duty towards the D. C. S., the contrast is remarkable. Whatever may be the cause, the ability is certainly much greater than the figures show. The evangelical work in which the Society is engaged, deserves the chief consideration of the parishioners, and were they to lay the subject and the criteria adduced, a little nearer to their consciences, the next annual Report would most assuredly show a much greater sum to their credit, than has hitherto appeared in print.

The average sum subscribed individually, in the country parishes, fluctuates considerably, as they are affected in their commercial, agricultural or fishing business. The standard is generally much lower than that of Halifax.

The Society held its annual general meeting on Tuesday, June 30, which, as it was then proved, is a very unseasonable time for the yearly gathering. In the absence of the Bishop, who was on a Visitation to the Eastern portion of the Diocese, the Venble. the Archdeacon took the Chair. A good deal of routine business was transacted necessary for the promotion of the interests of the Church. Votes of thanks were passed unanimously to the diligent and able Secretary, the Asst. Secretary, and the Treasurer, for their services during the past year. It was resolved that the next annual meeting be held in the month of October, 1858.

From the Report itself we make the following extracts:—

The total receipts of this Society, during 1856, amounted to £2,201 10 6. Viz.—

Widows & Orphans Fund	£341 13 3
Bishopric Endowment	109 9 1
Endowment of Parishes	649 6 11
Superannuation Fund	45 6 4
Colporteur Account	121 11 2
Donations to be funded	20 4 0
General purposes	913 19 9

Under the head of "Missionaries" a good deal of interesting information has been collected with reference to the Society's operations, and the labours of the Clergymen who are sustained by its funds. It appears that

"During the year 1856 the sum of £537 10s. has been paid towards the support of Missionaries in the following places:—

"Bridgewater, a Travelling Missionary on the Western Coast, Newport, Annapolis, Albion Mines, Pagwash, Chester, Westport, Millford, Musquodoboit; also to the Rev. J. Breeding, on the Eastern shore, and to the Rev. W. G. Jarvis at Guysboro'.

The Executive Committee has also made grants of £40 to Maitland and £20 to Rawdon, to assist them in maintaining their Missionaries, whose incomes were quite inadequate to their necessity."

Some extracts from the Missionary Reports will be interesting here:—

"The Missionary at Maitland, to which place this Society grants £40 per annum, attends at seven stations for the regular performance of Divine Service, viz.—Kennetcook, Five Mile River Church, Maitland, Rockville, Upper Shuboncadie, and the Goro. At these places, some of which are distant from his home, he has performed 103 services during the past year, among attentive and increasing congregations, and paid 190 pastoral visits. The people in this mission, which has but lately been set apart from Rawdon, are doing the best they can to support their Church. The number of Church Members is about 500, of whom 25 are communicants. They have raised during the past year £167 10s. for church purposes, and have undertaken to build a parsonage, which will make the position of their Clergyman much more comfortable.

"In the district of Sherbrooke, to which the Society has for several years contributed £50, the people are very poor, so much so, indeed, that the Executive Committee consented to forego temporarily the sum required to be made up by the people to their minister.

"The services of the Missionary are very affectionately received by the people, among whom he has paid 217 pastoral visits, and held regular services at the following stations:—Sherbrooke, Annapolis Road, Kentville Road, and Dalhousie, and occasional services at several other places.

"The Missionary at Pugwash reports that in the discharge of his duty he has travelled 2152 miles, and paid 596 pastoral visits and visits to the sick. The 500 Church people under his care are scattered over an area of 250 square miles. He has four regular stations for Divine service, viz., Wallace, where a new Church is building, Pugwash, River Philip, and Victoria Settlement. The people have raised £71 18s. 3d. for Church purposes.

"The Missionary at Westport, who is in part supported by this Society, has paid a thousand pastoral visits, travelling across the stormy straits, from the islands to the main land under his care. He reports that the Church in his district is increasing, the number now amounting to 400, of whom 38 are communicants."

Rev. Mr. Tocque is an active Missionary stationed at Tusket, near Yarmouth. We make an extract from his letter sent to the Bishop dated December 31, which is published in the Report, and which will give some idea of the extent of Missionary labour in Nova Scotia:—

"My Lord,—During the past year I have travelled 40 miles, viz.:—Walked 1440, and rode 1400 miles; baptized 15 persons, Married 1 and Buried 1; distributed 26 Bibles and Testaments; 24 Prayer Books and 500 Religious Books and Tracts, and made 860 pastoral visits. I have constantly visited the settlements along the coast between this and Port Latour, which is over 60 miles in extent, where I have preached 212 times during the year.

"Owing to there being no wardens or vestry in either of the Churches where I officiate, the whole burden of every thing falls on myself. Under such multitudinous labour, I sometimes feel my physical energies giving way. I have no desire to complain, but would cheerfully submit to any toil so that I may be instrumental in bringing souls to Christ. I bless God I never feel so happy as when making known Jesus Christ and him crucified, Jesus and the resurrection."

Grants have been made according to the means of the Society, to assist in the building and completion of Churches at Ship Harbour, Forks near Windsor, Coxheath, C. B., Tracadie, Conquerall, Bridgewater and Wallace, towards paying for the parsonage at Sydney, C. B.; and for a Church School at Sherbrooke, and towards a Church school house at Pictou. These expenditures, together with the current and contingent expenses of the Society, amount to £857 7 4, leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands at the end of the year of £464 18 2, from which must be deducted the salary of the Missionaries for the preceding quarter, and the unpaid grants. This would show the true balance to be about £125."

So it will be seen that the Diocesan Church Society of Nova Scotia has not been idle, to the extent of the means and the opportunities which have been placed in its power and at its disposal. It depends altogether upon the Churchmen of Nova Scotia to strengthen its hands, and as they are earnest in the cause, so will a blessing rest upon its labors, and so may they expect the Church to flourish and the glory of God to be promoted, through its instrumentality.

P. E. ISLAND.

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.—At a Meeting of the Parishioners of St. Paul's Church, convened according to notice on Monday last, the following Resolution was passed, with few dissentients:—

Resolved, That it is desirable to procure the services of two clergymen for St. Paul's Church, if the requisite funds for that purpose can be raised; and that this meeting, having had the experience of ten years as to the minister's conduct and character of the Rev. David Fitzgerald, do request that gentleman to accept the appointment as Minister of St. Paul's Church, and further do pledge themselves to exert their utmost influence to obtain for him a competent curate from the Colonial Church and School Society, London,—and with that view do recommend the assign-

ment of all subscriptions and other funds available for the salaries of said minister and curate to the said Colonial Church and School Society.—Protector.

The above Resolution is rather mystifying than explanatory of the course pursued by the Parishioners of St. Paul's, Charlotte Town. We cannot tell whether they intend to assign the power of the purse to the Colonial Church Society over Minister and curate, as an equivalent for the curate they expect it to obtain, or whether they expect the Colonial Church Society to provide with the curate a certain portion of his salary also, as a bonus for transferring to it the appointment. With reference to the Colonial Church Society furnishing the curate, it might perhaps have been as well to have added to the Resolution, as a matter of courtesy, "with the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese," whose consent we should suppose, open or tacit, is necessary in some way or other to give a sanction to his ministrations. This however they may have intended to obtain, although they have not expressed it,—for they cannot mean that the Colonial Church Society shall assume the Diocesan power, of planting a clergyman, which we do not think it would care to do,—or that it is in their own power either to assume such powers or to confer them.

Charlotte Town, the seat of government of P. E. Island, is or ought to be able to support its Church independently of any extraneous aid. They must be much more able than the poor people of England, who make up the subscription list of the Colonial Church Society, and expect it to be appropriated in places destitute of the means of grace and the ability to have them supplied.—We do not therefore care to suppose, that being free of outward dependence, they again desire the aid of any Society in a matter where they ought to help themselves, and to do something to help others also. The Church in these Provinces, has, however, been so long trammelled with support from home, that upon every occasion, it seems rather disposed to hug its chain, than by a manly christian effort to cast it away. An effort of this nature, we are sure, would enable the people of Charlotte Town, P. E. Island, to endow their Church, and give them the whole range of the United Kingdom, the Colonies, or the neighbouring Republic, whence to select their clergy, keeping the power to do so in their own hands, and showing at the same time a proper respect towards all who bear the rule over them in spiritual things.

The Royal Gazette publishes a notification to Merchant Shipping, reciting a portion of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854—that an official number would be appropriated to every British ship, permanently marked upon her beam end, and entered upon her certificate of registry. The Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade appointed a Committee of experienced officers to consider the whole subject of telegraphic communication at sea, who have recommended, and her Majesty's Government have adopted, a new code of signals.—No British vessel should be without that code, and his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia strongly recommends to the mercantile interest of this Province, to take care that their vessels are provided with that book, copies of which can be seen at the Provincial Secretary's Office.

At a Privy Council at Buckingham Palace, July 16, it was enacted that dues to the amount of one sixteenth of a penny per ton, for the maintenance of the Light House on Cape Ray, Newfoundland, be paid by all ships, steamships, &c. touching at any port or ports in the United Kingdom from the British Colonies in North America, and vice versa; or from New York or any port in the United States north of New York arriving at any port in the United Kingdom; or that may sail from or arrive at any port in said Colonies, on a transatlantic voyage. No such dues however to be levied in any Colony without Legislative sanction.

We have been favoured with Boston dates to Sept. 2 by Capt. Killam, of the steamer Eastern State. They contain details of the news by the Steamer Atlantic at New York from England.

The real cause of the accident to the Atlantic cable appears to have arisen from some want of skill on the part of the man in charge of the brakes. There were two men on board the Niagara who had charge of the brakes in turn, under the superintendence of Mr. Bright, the engineer. The first and best brakesman had retired from his task, and the man who succeeded him did not sufficiently account for the pitching of the vessel and putting the cable in a dangerous position, and when the stern of the Niagara was in the trough of the sea, the suddenness of the recoil broke the cable. It is now thought that in any future experiments relays of brakesmen will be necessary, so as to avoid the chance of their being overworked or becoming exhausted. It is estimated that the outside loss the company will sustain, in consequence of the failure, will be £25,000. The experiment, as an experiment has given general satisfaction. It is fully expected that at least one