

The Labrador Visitation.

NOTES FROM THE DIARY OF THE REV.
JAMES HEPBURN, M.A., ACTING AS
CHAPLAIN TO THE LORD BISHOP
OF QUEBEC.

By the kindness of Sir Charles H. Tupper, the Minister of the Marine and Fisheries Department at Ottawa, and of Commander Wakeham, of the D. S. S. "La Canadienne," it had been agreed that the Lord-Bishop of Quebec should be permitted to visit the North Shore in the Fisheries' Steamer on her summer trip. Accordingly on Thursday morning, June 21st, after an early breakfast at the Parsonage, Gaspé Basin, we went on board and were most kindly received by Captain Bélanger and his Officers. We were soon out of harbour, but we had not gone far, when we were obliged by fog to lie under Ship Head, about eighteen miles from Gaspé Basin, for the rest of the day. In the evening however the weather cleared and we steamed away, leaving the smiling French Canadian villages of the North Shore of Gaspé Peninsula on our left, and then, passing the West Point of Anticosti during the night, we found ourselves early the next morning at Sheldrake, on the Canadian Labrador.

During the next day we passed Thunder River, the Dock, Ridge Point, Magpie, St. John's River and Long Point, and arrived in the evening at Mingan, where we were most kindly received by Mr. Scott, the Agent at the Hudson's Bay Post, and his family.

It was now found that the steam machinery of our boat needed some slight repairs, and it became consequently necessary for her to return to Quebec. It was thus that the Lord Bishop was enabled, after only ten days' absence, to return home and to attend to several important duties, and especially to be present at the Annual Convocation of Bishop's College, Lennoxville.

Instead of returning with him, I felt that it would be better for me to remain behind and visit the line of Coast which we had passed on the previous day, and not included within the bounds of our Labrador Mission.

I expected that I should only have a week for this work, and therefore I knew that I must make haste. However I went to work with a good heart, and certainly the welcome with which I was received everywhere made me feel abundantly rewarded

for my labour. I visited eight stations from Mingan to Sheldrake (about forty-five miles), and held Service at each. The people and the Agents of the several fishing Rooms were most kind in helping me on my way from day to day; but contrary winds &c. made it necessary to do half the distance on foot. There is a passable road all along, and in places the sand on the beach is pleasant walking; in other parts it is very fatiguing, and it is just the same with the hills. The whole journey however was performed without any discomfort, and there was a spare day for recreation and sport before the "Canadienne" returned.

But, if one was disposed to criticize the weather, or the roads, it would be impossible to say any but the kindest and most grateful words of the people.

Mr. Scott, of Mingan, a friend of former days on the Labrador Coast, was quite his old self, and his family was most pleasing. On Sunday morning, Service was held with the Scott family,—five souls. The Holy Communion was celebrated, and three partook. On the previous day I had been driven six miles with a horse to Long Point to baptize two children,—one, a child of Frank Hamilton; and here it was arranged that he should come for me the following day to Mingan. He appeared in good time and drove me home. The people were visited before tea and asked to assemble for worship in the evening. Thirteen met, and the Service was very hearty and enjoyable. The accent of Mr. Vibert (an old Jerseyman), in his responses, recalled vividly happy reminiscences of twenty years ago at Mr. Robin's, of Old Fort Island. Next day Mr. Bossy, of St. John's River, received me warmly, and showed great zeal in sending information to the men scattered around to meet in his Room at 9 p. m. It chanced to be a very busy day, but the men hurried through their work, and met for prayer with evident joy, to the number of nineteen. They were from different parts of Gaspé, and for years past had had no religious ministrations during the three or four months of absence from home. The unexpected privilege was heartily embraced. The next evening at Magpie was similar; the Agents, LeBouthillier and LeDain, exerting themselves to secure a good gathering. Here a great charm was lent to the Service by Mr. LeBouthillier accompanying the Hymns on his violin.

The next day Ridge Point was visited, and also the Dock, at each of which places three were found and ministered to. The