

manent character in connexion with with the Church in his diocese.

A letter was read from the Lord Lyttelton requesting, in behalf of the Canterbury (New Zealand) Association, a grant in aid of the endowment of the bishopric about to be appointed for the settlement. He stated that the Association is pledged to the appointment of a Bishop, who will take the spiritual charge of the settlement, and to provide for him an adequate endowment out of the produce of their land sales. But a considerable portion of the new diocese will extend beyond the Canterbury settlement.

The Standing Committee gave notice that on Tuesday, the 1st October, they will propose a grant of £1000 towards the object stated, in Lord Lyttelton's letter.

The following grants were made on the recommendation of the Lord Bishop of Toronto for the following objects in his diocese:—

Towards a church at Vittoria, in the township of Charlotteville, Talbot District, on the application of the Rev. F. Evans, £25.

Towards a church at Bearbrook, in Cumberland, in the mission of Bytown, on the application of the Rev. S. S. Strong, £25.

Towards a church at each of the following places—Cayugaville, on the banks of the Grand River, £20.; Waterdown, in the township of East Hamborough, £20.; and Milton, in the township of Trafalgar; on the application of the Rev. R. N. Merritt, £20.

Towards a church at Streetsville, on the application of the Rev. R. I. M'George, £25.

For two churches in Mr. M'George's mission, three sets of service books; books for schools and Lending Libraries for the same mission £8.

Towards a new church about to be built at Portsmouth, near Kingston, Canada West, on the application of the Rev. W. M. Herchmer, £25.

The following letter from the Lord Bishop of Colombo, dated Newera Eliya, May 6, 1850, was read to the Board:—

"Your well-timed help towards the completion of the little church at Rambodde, not far away from this mountain station of my diocese, has enabled me, I rejoice to say, to consecrate it. On the morning of St. Mark's day, with my family on horses and ponies, I left this place at about half-past five. The ride is down a continuous mountain pass of about fifteen miles, to the head of a deep valley, shut in by hills of 7000 feet elevation, clad with evergreen verdure to their very summits, with rocky streams and waterfalls on every side. The circuitous and zigzag windings of the pass are so well managed as to be without danger in any part (though Indians from the Hooghly flats are sometimes not a little appalled at our precipices, and turn back without ever reaching N. Eliya at all); but on this glad morning my children were delighted to leave their ponies for a patriarchal breakfast by a rocky stream, a broken tree or bare crag giving cool and welcome rest, with brightest balsams around, only found in this pass, and beautiful prospects opening beyond.

"We reached the little church soon after ten o'clock, the time appointed, where I was met by the Rev. J. Wise, the chaplain of this station, to which Rambodde Church is attached for a monthly service, and Captain Fisher, to whose earnestness and zeal we owe the accomplishment of this good work. The spot is, indeed, most lovely. The broad deep mountain shadows and gorgeous brightness of a tropical sun give a vividness and contrast to the greens of our most exuberant verdure, which defy the artist's skill. We have tried it repeatedly, but it is too puzzling. The broad expanse of changeless green, and extreme minuteness of detail, all in one brightest colour, as unimaginable as almost unnatural to dusky European eyes, overtask the painter's power. How would it gladden the heart were our spiritual prospects as bright and beaming all around! On this day, however, God be thanked, there was a spring of cheerful thought within. The little building, of solid unhewn granite, simple but not rude, is quite in keeping with the lovely scene around, and, with its small bell turret, seems to consecrate by its simple holiness the rich valley which it adorns. It is surrounded by flourishing coffee estates, the proprietors of several of which were present; Colonel Fraser and his family, Major Kelvin's also, and Captain Fisher's, &c.

"I was assisted by the Rev. W. F. Sirons, the assistant chaplain of the Kandyan province. We first walked round the burial-ground, in which already have been deposited the earthly remains of several Europeans. We repeated the 49th Psalm, and when within the church the petition for consecration was read by Captain Fisher, the principal resident proprietor in the district, and the service was continued, Mr. Wise, Mr. Simons, and myself all taking part in it. I gladly express the hope, and thankfully too, that the church of St. John the Evangelist, at Rambodde, the first consecrated in the central province since it submitted to British rule in 1818, will only be the forerunner of others,—the first fruits of our holy offering in thanksgiving to God.

"We all repaired after the service to the hospitable residence of Captain Fisher, and were interested in the contrast, as narrated by Colonel Fraser, who, thirty years before, had marched his troops over the very spot, and across the very water-falls which break the repose, while they adorn the scenery, of this beautiful valley, to subjugate the neighbouring districts, and helped after its conquest to trace the excellent road which now makes all so accessible. The whole district is very quiet and pacific, and took no part in the late puerile outbreak, of which in England you have heard far more than it deserved.

"The Singhalese people are a most manageable and submissive race; and had we but funds for Christian education, and means of spiritual instruction, I could not limit the amount of good that might be done among the Singhalese people. I have been wandering amongst them for the last two months in distant parts of the diocese, among their wilds and most secluded villages, sharing their homesteads, and not a single instance have I met with of any other feeling than the kindest welcome, and simplest but most frank and courteous hospitality, when, drenched even by rains, and stopped by flooded torrents, I have taken the solitary hut by surprise for the night's shelter from inclement weather. As soon as I approach the family are astir, the best room is swept out, the firesticks at once kindled on the earthen floor, the mat spread, and rice prepared, and every help given to dry my drenched clothes, and prepare the linen hangings (a never-failing compliment) for my curtained bedstead, formed of sticks raised from the ground, and a mat spread over them; and this for several weeks together, when I have not seen an European between the intervening Sundays. I have not lost in all my wanderings a single article, even of food, and have often met with a smiling and courteous refusal of a small present in return for their unbought hospitality. There is much that is pleasing, as being so simple and primitive in their manners; and their failings are all of defective instruction and guidance, which we ought to do more here to supply. May grace be given to our rulers to move their hearts to better and holier efforts for the improvement of the people committed to us!"

A subsequent letter, dated from the same place, May, 10, 1850, contained a drawing of the new church at Newera Eliya, towards the erection of which, the Society made a grant some years since, and which, after a suspension of the works, is now nearly completed. The Bishop said, that but for the energetic and disinterested efforts of Major Brunker, of the 15th Regiment, the work would have remained unfinished for a much longer period. His Lordship requested a grant of £20 or £25 towards the completion of the fabric.

The sum of £25 was granted.

He added,

"I gladly mention that the Collegiate School building is now prepared for the roof; and, as I am shortly about to sail for the Mauritius on a visitation, I hope on my return, if by God's mercy spared so long, to open this part of the projected institution at the beginning of September next; and, if God's blessing continue with us, the collegiate and theological department on the festival of St. Thomas the Apostle. If your Committee would cheer us on in our humble work by a present of the Society's maps, and any grant useful for the Collegiate School, we shall accept the boon as an earnest of that fostering care in our infancy, of which we desire that our growth should prove us not undeserving. Your larger fund I wish to appropriate to the endowment of the wardenship, as soon as the