

or three exceptions, are far from affluent; yet amidst some discouragements, it is very pleasing to mark the silent and steady march of church progress amongst the people, in a more enlightened spirit of piety, as well as in a more steady and conscientious regard to the interests and duties of religion. Through the exertion of the Parochial Committee the sum of £23 6s. 10d. has been raised for the Society during the past year, being a much larger amount than was ever before collected for the same purpose; one-fourth of which will be duly forwarded to the Treasurer of the Parent Society.

A chancel window of stained glass, similar to that in Grafton, has also been procured for this Church, chiefly by two ladies of the congregation, who kindly undertook the task of collection for this purpose.

Both these windows, it is but right to state, were the work of E. C. Bull, Esq., of Toronto, an artist who, in matters of Church decoration in this diocese, is well worthy of the generous and cordial support of his brother churchmen.

RICE LAKE.

A very interesting meeting, and well attended, was held in the Church at Gore's Landing, in this mission, on the 2nd February. The most influential gentlemen of the congregation were present, and seemed to be animated with an ardent desire to uphold the claims of the Society, and to contribute to its funds according to their ability. The sum of £3 15s. has been already raised, of which amount 15s. has been contributed to the first and fifth objects of the Society. Of this amount the sum of 3s. has been set aside to be forwarded to the Parent Society for general purposes.

The sum raised in this little mission will, no doubt, appear small, but it must be recollected, that the Church here is but in its infancy, that its numbers are few and scattered, and laboring under the disadvantage of not having a resident clergyman among them. This latter deficiency, however, they are taking steps to remedy; and for this purpose, an influential member of the congregation, proceeded some time since to England, in order to raise funds for the erection of a Parsonage. From this, and other sources, they have now above £100, and as soon as a sufficient amount can be raised, they intend to proceed with the building. Another gentleman, a member of the congregation, has generously given a deed of two acres of land, contiguous to the Church as a site for the Parsonage. And upon the whole, the prospects are rather of a cheering and encouraging nature.

CARTWRIGHT AND MANVERS.

Your Committee regrets to say that no report has as yet been received from this mission. And they fear that from the difficulties attending upon the organization of the Church in a new mission, especially in the back woods, and the privations of many of the settlers, scarcely anything can be expected, at least for some time, beyond the necessary attention to their own local wants.

Through the indefatigable exertions of their faithful and zealous missionary, the Rev. William Logan, a neat and commodious Church has been already completed in Manvers; and steps are now being taken for the speedy erection of another in a distant part of the township.

Such is a brief statement of what has been effected by the different Parochial Associations comprising our District Branch of the Church Society, for the past year; both as regards the operations of the Society itself, as well as the various local objects in the several parishes, having in view the same ends, as our Society was instituted to effect. From this statement it appears that the total amount raised by the several Parochial Associations in the district has been £ ; of which amount, one-fourth, or the sum of , remains at the disposal of the Parent Society, for general purposes; and the remaining three-fourths, or £ are to be expended in the parishes where such amounts have been respectively collected.

And while your Committee regret that more has not been accomplished, they see no cause for positive discouragement; but rather feel disposed, if God should spare them, to double their diligence, and to increase their exertions, in order that another year may witness an abundant increase of missionary zeal, and enterprise in the augmentation of the funds of the Society. And although they freely admit that the pages of the Church Society's Report may afford a fitting and convenient medium, for setting forth the result of Parish work, having no immediate connection with the Society; yet they most strongly protest against the practice of blazoning before the public, the large sums raised for purposes purely local, and then taking credit for having done so much for the Society, or regarding these local exertions as an apology for doing nothing further. It must be obvious to every reflecting person, that if a great institution like the Church Society is to be supported at all, it must be supported irrespective of all local claims. If all that is raised in the various parishes for church purposes, be spent for local objects, the Society falls to the ground, and the missionary spirit, which ought to be perpetual, becomes extinct. We must always remember our mutual obligations, that we are members of the same body, of which our Lord is the Head; and bearing in mind our indebtedness to our brethren in the mother country, endeavour to act up to the meaning and spirit of the motto of our Society, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

In urging the claims of the Church Society to the sympathy and support of the laity, your Committee cannot conclude their report without adverting for a moment, to the spiritual destitution which at present exists within the bounds of their own districts. The following townships, they grieve to say, are still without the services of either a travelling missionary, or a resident

clergyman, viz: Seymour, Percy, Brighton, Asphodel, Dummoor, Alnwick, and the rear of Hope, or Perry Town. And when they add, that in some of the extensive parishes, where one clergyman is at present laboring, two, or even four, might be advantageously engaged, some idea may be formed of the wants of our Church throughout this vast and extensive diocese. As a partial remedy for this existing and rapidly increasing destitution, your Committee would humbly suggest, that each District Branch of the Church Society might, in addition to its present contributions, undertake to support one or more travelling missionaries within its bounds, until the different settlements could enjoy the benefits of more settled and regular ministrations. By this means, the scattered sheep of the wilderness would be collected, congregations formed and kept together until the missionaries could be duly organized by a resident Pastor. If ever there was a day when the Church needed the hearty prayers, and generous support of all her children, that day is the present. If ever there was a day, when our Lord's observation, applied in all its fulness to this land, "The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few," that day is the present. And surely there is abundant cause for all of us, to act in accordance with the command of our Divine Master,—"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into his harvest."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. WILSON,
Secretary.

Cobourg, Feb. 23, 1853.

DIocese of NEWBRUNSWICK.

The Queen has been pleased to grant a Royal Charter, with the privilege of conferring Degrees, to Bishop's College, Lennoxville, in the Diocese of Quebec. The Rev. J. Hellmuth, Professor of Hebrew in that institution, has lately received the degree of Doctor in Divinity from his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

DIocese of MELBOURNE.

IRON CHURCHES AND PARSONAGE HOUSES.

LETTERS have been received from the Bishop of Melbourne, giving more recent accounts of the state of affairs in that Colony. In a letter, dated October 7th, 1852, he says:—"During the last ten months our population must have been at the least trebled; probably the increase has been much greater, for I have no means of ascertaining the exact number, while the means of religious instruction and the accommodation for public worship remain only what they were before. I believe that there are many hundreds in Melbourne, and there are thousands at our gold-fields, who would be thankful for the opportunity of attending the services of our Church, but are prevented from doing so by want of accommodation. It is most painful to me to see the numbers standing at the door of our cathedral church after the service has begun, waiting in the hope of obtaining seats; and the same is the case in a greater degree at St. Peter's. Scores have often turned away disappointed, and these, as you may suppose, will not repeat the trial many times. After going once or twice in vain, they give it up in despair." After remarking "that the Church of England possesses no machinery for collecting contributions from the body of the people, unless they be formed into congregations, and be placed under the pastoral charge of an adequate number of clergymen," the Bishop proceeds:—"At present it is absolutely impossible to obtain assistance from the people generally for Church of England purposes. There is, as I have said, no machinery for effecting that object, and without churches and clergymen we can provide no machinery. Give churches and give faithful and able clergymen, and I do not doubt that a very large amount might, with God's blessing, be easily procured. The Wesleyans raise large sums, because they have a machinery, through which they can reach all. But at present the contributions to our various objects are obtained from only a few individuals; nevertheless they are by no means inconsiderable, and I am persuaded that the duty of honoring the Lord with their substance is already much more generally acknowledged, and much more conscientiously observed, among the attendants at our service than it is in England. A gentleman, a few months ago, came to offer me £500, the tenth of a sum just received by him for some land which he had sold; another, formerly a Presbyterian, called upon me this morning to place £100 a year at my disposal; and a third, a day or two ago, signified his intention of giving £700 in annual payments of £125, to the Endowment Fund. I might mention several more similar instances of men giving freely to the Lord, both among our merchants, and persons of property, and even among our labouring classes. I would not, therefore, have it supposed that the members of our Church can justly be reproached by their brethren in England with not doing their duty." "What we want from England are men and buildings; clergymen, churches, and parsonage-houses." After referring to information which he has received, that iron churches capable of holding 1200 or 1500 persons, and so constructed as to suit a hot climate, can be sent out from England (without fittings) for £500 or £600, and that parsonage-houses of a sufficient size, can be sent for £250 or £300, and mentioning that the Wesleyans had actually ordered six such churches; he states that some members of our communion in the Colony had urged upon him the importance of obtaining double that number.

Under the circumstances disclosed in this

letter, the Bishop has made an application to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, which we give in his own words:—

"What I would propose to the Society is, that they should appropriate a sum of not less than £5,000, if I were not afraid they would think me exorbitant, I should say £8,000 or £10,000, not as a free grant, but in the way of loan, to be repaid as soon as possible by the several particular congregations, for the purpose of sending out of churches, with all their fittings complete, to hold not less than 1,000 persons each; and parsonage-houses of six rooms, with flooring, &c., so that the same might be put up and used with the least possible delay after the arrival in the Colony. If the Society would comply with this application, I would propose that the number of buildings should be proportioned to the number of clergymen who may come out to us. First, we should be glad of four churches and parsonage-houses, as speedily as possible; and besides these four, one church and parsonage-house for every two clergymen. My hope is that, if the Lord dispose the Society to adopt this plan, and if He incline the hearts of a sufficient number of faithful and able men to come out, we shall, with His blessing on our work, obtain such a hold upon the people, as may give us the means of paying for every building soon after we get it, and thus enable the Society either to continue its aid, or to leave us to ourselves, as they may see fit."

By a more recent letter received from the Bishop, it appears that his views have undergone a slight alteration. In it he says:—"In asking for churches that should contain not less than 1,000 persons each, I allowed myself to be influenced by the earnest desires of some around me; but upon reflection, I would prefer that they should not be so large, but should vary from a size capable of accommodating 600, to one which would hold 1,000 persons. This last number should, I think, be the maximum instead of the minimum. I am very anxious that you should send out at once two of the former size, which I could get paid for almost immediately upon their arrival, one of the latter, and one or two intermediate. You may perhaps think me exorbitant in my requests, but I assure you that what I am asking for is likely to prove only as a mouthful to an hungry man, our need is so urgent."

The application of the Bishop to the Society has met with a favourable consideration; and they have shown an inclination to send out one or two churches and parsonage-houses, by way of experiment. At their suggestion, some of the Bishop's friends in this country have been actively employed in making investigations and obtaining information on the subject. Application has been made to Mr. Hemming, of Bristol, who has for some time been extensively engaged in constructing iron buildings for exportation, and who is now about to send out to the gold fields an iron lodging-house, capable of accommodating fifty-seven single men. Mr. Hemming, has prepared plans and estimates, from which it appears, that an iron church, with all the fittings complete, will cost £1,000, to contain 600 persons; £1,250 for 800; and £1,500 for 1,000 persons; which last size he does not advise should be exceeded, thus agreeing with the Bishop; and that a parsonage house of six rooms, with flooring and stove, will cost 300 guineas. These prices include the expense of packing and conveying on board ship. The buildings are a framework of wood, having the exterior surface of the sides covered with plates of galvanized iron, and the interior with thin boards, with an interval between the two surfaces, of about four inches, to be filled up with some non-conducting substance, such as wool, straw, saw-dust or sand burnt bricks, which the sun's heat cannot penetrate. The boards are covered with canvas, and that again with paper of a neat pattern. The roof is constructed on the same principle. The Church is of a pleasing appearance outside, with a small belfry-tower in front: it has a nave, and two aisles; the roof of the former being higher by some feet than that of the latter. The pulpit, divisions of the pews, and other fittings are of light open iron-work. The house consists of six rooms on the ground-floor. It has a pretty villa-like appearance, with a deep verandah, and venetian blinds to exclude the heat.

Acting on the information which they have obtained, the Bishop's friends have addressed an application to the Society for a grant by way of loan, to be repaid out of the funds collected from the congregations, which will enable them to send out two churches for 600 persons each, and two of the parsonage-houses just described. The application is almost immediately to come before the Committee for their decision. If it should be successful, this step must be considered as the beginning of an important movement, and we may soon be gratified with the novel spectacle of clergymen leaving our shore from time to time for Port Philip, each of them taking his church and parsonage-house with him.

DIocese of NEW ZEALAND.

THE MELANESIAN MISSION.

We have been favoured (says the Colonial Church Chronicle) with a copy of a private letter from the Rev. Wm. Nihill, one of the companions of the Bishop of New Zealand in his last missionary voyage among the Islands. Its contents are so full of interest that we lay it before our readers almost without abridgement. It was begun at the island Maré (or Nengone), on Aug. 1st, 1852, and finished at St. John's College, New Zealand, in the following October:—

"We left New Zealand on the 19th of June,

landed a Scotch Minister, called Mr. Inglis, at Anaitum, left the Erromango and Futuna boys at their own homes, and came on to Maré, where the *Bordermaid* left me with one of the New Zealand youths, called Henry Taratoa, and our Neugone boys. We hope to be picked up again on the return of the schooner, probably about the 15th of September, from some islands further to the North, whether the Bishop has proceeded with Nelson Hector, and a few boys. These seas not being very well known, and most of the islands not being very safe to land at, they have very few on board besides the crew. In order that they may not be compelled to go ashore in bad places by want of water. So much for the vessel, now for ourselves. We are living amongst a most interesting set of people. There are perhaps two thousand people in our immediate neighbourhood, and I suppose five or six hundred at the other end of the Island, Siwaieko, who have been here for the last three years professing Christians, who have had no other teachers amongst them than men from Rarotonga and Samoa, about whom one reads in Williams's Missionary Enterprises? The two men with whom we are living, are both young, unmarried men, who have been working steadily here for the last six years, a great part of which time they were without any resources but their own; their Missionary vessel having made a long stay in England. They have gained the respect and attention of all the natives; and from these two places, Gamma and Siwaieko, converted natives of the island are constantly going out every Saturday morning to preach at other Settlements, where the people have not yet decided in favour of Christianity, thus extending the knowledge of the Gospel through the whole island by little and little.

As for myself, I have done but little; it does not seem to be quite settled between the Bishop and the London Missionary Society, who agreed to abandon this group in his favour, whether they or he are to have the ultimate management of it; so I am working with the Rarotonga teachers, and giving them what help I can. The early morning we spend in school in the church; after breakfast we spend about two hours and a half in instructing the young men who act as teachers. This is an arrangement of my own, and will probably only last as long as Henry and I are here. My class numbers about twenty-five, besides the two teachers, who employ themselves in learning English and writing. During this time Henry writes out lessons &c. In the afternoon he teaches about the same number of boys, and I print. Once or twice a week I pay a visit to some neighbouring village, and write down the names of the people. On Thursday and Friday evenings there are classes in the church. Every night we translate for about an hour and a half. For breakfast we have yams, fowls, humana, taro, &c., with tea or coffee; for dinner, pork, salt or fresh, or fowl with yams, &c.; for tea, biscuit and tea. The natives supply us with food in abundance; yams, &c. at all times, fowls very frequently, pork occasionally. They treat us just as they do their own chiefs, attending to our wishes, saluting us, &c.; and their teachableness is shown by the congregation on Sunday usually amounting to a thousand, and by Henry and I securing each a regular attendance of about twenty-five youths and boys, who spend two hours most patiently and attentively in being instructed by us, having already been two hours in the church, either teaching or being taught. I can just perceive the amount of work that might be done if I knew how to set about it; how the Bishop would establish regular cycles of visitation, and grades of advancement in the Schools; teach the natives to make clothes, lay out villages, make cocoa-nut oil, &c. I want first to get a thorough knowledge of the people and their country, and to this end I write down the names of all the people at every village I visit, which they tell me very willingly, and I am already beginning to find it of the greatest use. I collect seeds, ferns, leaves, shells, &c. as I walk through the woods and on the beach. It takes up no time; and although I only began it for the purpose of making a little *Hortus Siccus* for Mr. Purchas, who has been very kind to me: I find all these things are so many pegs to hang words and expressions on. The children have found out my propensity for picking up things and asking their names, and they bring me insects and flowers to bottle up, and press, and write their names down in a book. One of the Bishop's excellences I am trying by slow degrees to attain to—his Cambridge correctness. All his memoranda are so neatly written out on the spot, and so clearly expressed, that if he were prevented from re-entering them in another book, anybody could decipher them at a glance. He looks at every place with the eye of a surveyor, putting down real facts in plain words, and making little drawings throughout the page. He is the best accountant I have ever known and takes no numbers on trust, without very distinctly stating that it is a guess or an approximation. I shall never forget his sitting down quietly to count a large number of children's primers, amounting to several thousands, (8,000, I think,) because the man who bound the books had sent no bill. There is one accomplishment which I lament having neglected to cultivate (every day of my life)—I mean drawing. I have made one or two attempts to learn, but they have been but feeble ones.

I am afraid my notes are getting unintelligible for I am writing in public; I counted the row of faces just opposite to me a short time ago, and they amounted to forty-five. I have no table, and I cannot write so well without one as I can with. My ink is very low, and the light is not very good, although a little maiden takes her place at the fire in the centre of the room as soon as it is dusk, and keeps feeding the flame with the dry stalks of the cocoa-nut tree, which she splits up with her teeth. She never moves