

agent of the society. In 1704, when the first report was issued, we find Newfoundland mentioned as having "several settlements of English, with many occasional inhabitants as workers, mariners, etc.,—at fishing seasons to the amount of several thousands,—but no public exercise of religion except at St. John's, where there is a congregation, but unable to sustain a minister"

From this time on until 1787 the ranks of the missionary band were increased at intervals, until most of the large settlements had a regular priest amongst them.

In 1787 took place that all important event, the appointment of Dr. Charles Inglis as Bishop of Nova Scotia, the first Colonial Bishop of the Church of England, with a jurisdiction over Nova Scotia and its dependencies in North America.

It is not surprising to find that the island had no episcopal visits during the episcopates either of Bishop Charles Inglis or of Bishop Stanser, the latter only occupying the see for eight years, when the vast country over which their labours had to be extended are taken into consideration.

However, a bright day was in store for Newfoundland, and which dawned when Bishop John Inglis was not only enabled to constitute Newfoundland an archdeaconry in 1825, but in 1827 was permitted to pay a personal visit to these extreme parts of his

diocese, where he found nine clergymen, twenty-three schoolmasters, and six hundred communicants.

These schoolmasters were the outcome of the zeal and devotion of Samuel Codner, a merchant, who in 1823 founded a School Society, which organization has been the means of accomplishing so much for the Master not only in Newfoundland, but also in the whole of British North America. At first called the Newfoundland School Society, it was changed several times, till at last it assumed its present name of the Colonial and Continental Church Society.

In 1835 one of the archdeacons appointed under the patent of 1825, Mr. Wix, appears to have made several visits both on the southern shore, as well as on the coast of Labrador, and finally to have completed a visitation of the whole coast line.

In 1839 the Archdeaconries of Newfoundland and Bermudas, having parliamentary endowments were combined in one diocese, and Archdeacon Spencer, a former missionary of Newfoundland, was appointed the first bishop.

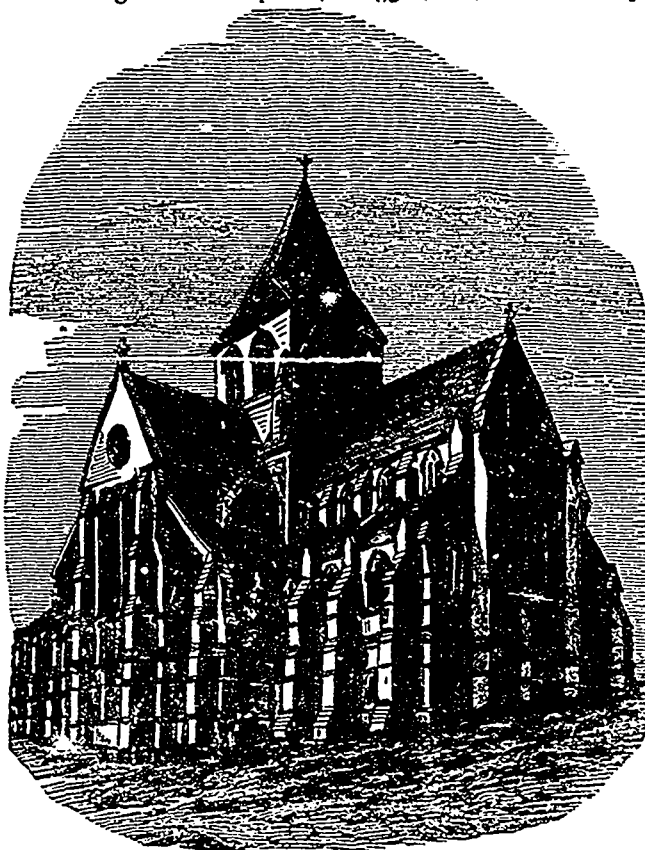
"It was," as has been well said, "to a country whose inhabitants could be thus described without exaggeration, and whose physical features, combined with a winter of six months' duration, tend to make it a place of residence unattractive to the last degree to all save the seekers of gold or of souls, that in 1839 the episcopate was hardly given."

Aubrey George Spencer, the first Bishop of Newfoundland, was born in 1795, and was the eldest son of the Hon. William Spencer. He received his early education at Greenwich, where his abilities and attainments, especially in Latin, won for him the abiding love and esteem of his master, Dr. Burney.

After serving for a while in the Royal Navy, during which time he was actively engaged, and boy-like brought his first prize money home to his mother, he determined to pursue

a literary career. Somewhat late in life he entered Magdalene Hall, Oxford, and shortly after took Holy Orders. Whilst at Oxford he wrote two prize poems of great merit—especially one on "The Coliseum." The love of a friend that sticketh closer than that of a brother was beautifully shown in an incident connected with the other poem. A poet friend of Spencer was also a competitor, and as he was anxious for the friend who was younger than himself to receive it, he withdrew from the competition.

Having spent a few years in two curacies, one at Prittlewall, in Essex, and the other in Norfolk,



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