

fear for other places. I am thankful to say that none of my brethren of the clergy have as yet suffered any personal injury. They have all remained at their posts, and our heavenly Father has cast His protecting arm around them. One or two have been ordered into Graham's Town by the Archdeacon, but they have been unwilling to leave the encampments in which they have been residing. He does not issue any summons till the women and children are sent out of the district. I grieve to say that there is great distress amongst many of the settlers of Albany. Some whom I have known in affluent circumstances, owning large tracts of country, are reduced to receive alms from the clergy. You ask to see my journal. I sent it home shortly after my return to my brother-in-law and commissary. But you will probably have seen it before this reaches you.

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Colombo, dated, "On Visitation, Jaffna, Ceylon, August 22, 1851," acknowledging the Society's grant for the Veddahs in Ceylon. The Bishop said:—

"I received a few days since, from the Mauritius, a very pleasing account of the progress of missionary work lately among the 'ex-apprentices,' or emancipated slaves in that colony. The mission of Belle-Isle was established during my Visitation last year.

"The inhabitants of the district of Vaquois, about ten miles from Port Louis, have offered their labour and materials to build a chapel and a school, if they can have a teacher settled among them. They are visited weekly by the Rev. G. de Joux, the clergyman who has charge of the mission at Belle-Isle.

"A grant of £10 in Bibles, Prayer Books, religious tracts, and school books, for these two interesting congregations, would be a valuable encouragement to an earnest and devoted clergyman, and give to the people themselves a visible proof that they are cared for in their best interests by those who are both willing and able to help. Mr. De Joux being a Swiss by birth, and ordained by the Bishop of London, has an influence with them by his thorough knowledge of the language, which few could be expected to attain."

It was agreed that the books specified in the Bishop's letter, to the value of £10, be granted.

In a letter dated, "On Visitation, Mantotte, Ceylon, Sept. 10, 1851," the Bishop said:—

"In this diocese we have very few consecrated churches out of Colombo; at present only three. We have many licensed chapels, but few endowed or consecrated churches. Those at Kandy and Newera Eliya will now very soon be added to the number. But at the principal stations, where there are Government Chaplains, like Galle and Jaffna, large and massive buildings had been raised by the Dutch, during their occupancy of the island, which by treaty were secured to them; but as they are maintained and repaired by our own Government, we have the full use of them for Divine Service, but only by sufferance, under the Consistory. Of the great inconvenience of this we had a striking example not long since. I have urged it upon them as a reason for building a church for themselves, to be consecrated, and used as their own in perpetuity, and I have good hope that they will ere long undertake it, one of their body having lately bequeathed £400 for the purpose.

"The case is similar at Jaffna. We have the joint use of the old Dutch church within the Fort, which is now in so dilapidated a state, that a considerable sum will be required to repair it. I solemnized two Confirmations in English and Portuguese under its roof a few weeks since; and on the following Sunday administered twice the Holy Communion in the same languages:—in Portuguese at the early Service with six, and in English, at the usual hour, with sixty communicants, assisted in both by the Colonial Chaplain. In the following week, the building was officially declared unsafe, which an inspection of the roof-timbers fully warranted. On my return to Jaffna, I was obliged to officiate in the Court-house; and I did not lose the opportunity of pressing upon them the desirableness of making an effort to build a church for themselves.

"Building materials are inexpensive in this part of the island, the whole peninsula of Jaffna being on a bed of coral; and I calculate that we can build a very fine church, 100 feet by 30, of sim-

ple but good character, with chancel, pointed windows, bell turret and vestry, for £500; of substantial scantlings, and good materials, either brick or stone, with excellent chunam (lime), and a tiled roof. The expense of materials never exceeds half, in some one third, and in some even a quarter of what they cost me in Colombo for my collegiate buildings. I have inspired them by a promise at once of £25 myself and £25 more from a Tract fund at my disposal, and of some help from your Society; and if the Society could add £50 more to complete the first £100 for the holy work I shall be most glad and thankful to communicate to the Committee your Christian sympathy. I may repeat, that it will be the only consecrated church in the whole northern province, amid a population of 100,000 heathen; and if we fail (ah! woe!) in this effort, we shall have and can hope for none at all. But I have no musing. Our whole work here is of faith: it grows with our growth. Scanty as may be our means, and poor our effort, His blessing, Whose work it is, will not be wanting, either to your bounty or our want, or to the faithful prayers of both."

The Board voted £50 towards the proposed church at Jaffna.

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Newcastle, dated Sydney, May 28, 1851. The following are extracts:—

"As a Presbyterian of the Church in England, and as Bishop of this diocese, I have, in the performance of my ministerial duties, ever laid down this principle of action: That my work should be real, sound work, likely to produce future lasting good, however unobserved or unnoticed my labours might be. And truly in my diocese there was much of this unseen, underground, foundation-work to be accomplished, if the Church was ever to become a blessing and a praise in the land.

"Not only was ruin general, and poverty universal, and every district irritated and depressed by the amount of its Church debts, but there had grown up an opinion, that the Government and the Bishop were to supply all their religious wants; and that all which was required of the members of the Church was to express a wish, that churches might be built for them, and ministers maintained. This opinion I have from the first most strenuously and perseveringly resisted, and, I am delighted to say, with the happiest result. Indeed, I determined to throw the members of our Church on their own resources as regards church buildings; to give them nothing, except my own private mite of assistance, and to ask for nothing for them; and the following good has thus certainly been effected. Though the generalty are still poor, they are willing to give cheerfully of their penury for the purpose of providing for themselves and for others the means of grace through the ministrations of our Apostolic Church.

"Again, all the old debts upon the churches have been paid off; and the Churchwardens of every parish in the Hunter District were enabled, last Easter Tuesday, to inform their parishioners, that there was a surplus in favour of the parish, instead of a debt against it, as there had been for many previous years.

"Again, churches which had been left for years unfinished have been completed; and persons who were tired of subscribing, and irritated at finding their money either wasted or lost, have been rendered grateful and happy at the consecration of their church. Thus, in 1848 I had no church to consecrate, in 1849 I had one, in 1850 only one; but this year I have already consecrated four, and three more will be ready for consecration before I return from my missionary voyage with the Bishop of New Zealand; and I have several others progressing most satisfactorily towards completion.

"And lastly, without any fresh aid from Government funds, fifteen additional clergymen have been placed out in the destitute districts of the diocese, and are maintained by the subscriptions of the Churchmen in their districts, aided by a grant from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; and I am delighted to say, aided also by the offerings of the members of the Church in the old long-settled districts, who have their clergymen maintained by Government grant, and have been made to feel that there is a claim upon them, not only of brotherly kindness and charity, but of equity and justice, to share the burdens of their brethren, and to contribute to the support of their ministers.