

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE. Eph. 2 c. 20 v.

VOLUME I. LUNENBURG, N. S. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1835. NUMBER 1.

PROSPECTUS

Of a Religious Paper to be published at Lunenburg, N.S. once a fortnight, called the **COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.**
To be conducted by a Society of Gentlemen.
Terms—10s. per annum—one half to be paid on the delivery of the first number.

In the commencement of new periodicals it has been customary to state at considerable length, the proposed character, principles, and object of the work; and large promises are generally made which it is afterwards found hard, if not impossible, to fulfil. On the present occasion, it is not intended to follow such examples, but simply to set forth some of the reasons which have led to the establishment of the proposed periodical, and the objects to which it will be devoted; and to solicit for it a general support

The want of some channel of communication, by which the members of the Church of England could be informed of matters interesting to them as Churchmen, has long been felt throughout this Province. To supply this want, and furnish such information, is one object proposed by the Conductors of the intended Paper. Their design accordingly is, frequently to extract from the Reports of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, to the benevolent exertions of which Venerable Body the inhabitants of British America are so long and so largely indebted. The columns of their paper will likewise be freely opened for such other matters of interest, relating to the Church in these Provinces, as their correspondents may supply.

It is proposed also to devote a portion of the publication to Missionary Intelligence, both domestic and foreign—and another to the important interests of Sunday Schools. And it will likewise be the endeavour of the Conductors to give as much room as possible to subjects of a practical nature, tending to promote sound, scriptural and rational piety.

Although this paper will be edited by members of the Church of England, and its special object will be to promote the welfare of that Church, and the edification of its members; it is hoped, that it will not be thought unworthy of the support of all who wish well to the cause of true Religion.

The Conductors confidently appeal to the members of the Church in particular, and to the public at large, for their support. And they respectfully request all CLERGYMEN throughout the Dioceses of Nova-Scotia and Quebec, to act as Agents; and to forward, as early as possible, Lists of such Subscribers as may be obtained, that they may ascertain, whether they will be able to proceed with the undertaking.

Lunenburg, April 30, 1835.

EDITORIAL.

In sending forth the first number of the Colonial Churchman, it will perhaps be expected that the Editors should give some fuller account of the object of the publication now commenced—of the plan upon which it is to be conducted, and the principles by which it will be governed, than is contained in the foregoing Prospectus. For many reasons that paper was made as brief as possible, and accordingly abstained from those pledges which are generally

so freely given, but so seldom redeemed. Nor is it now intended to be large in promises; it being believed that our readers will rather regard what the work is, than what it professes to be. As to our object, in thus adding the superintendance of a religious press, to the weighty and hourly cares of the ministerial office, we will simply say, that it is with the hope of DOING GOOD, and a desire to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion in all around us, and especially in the members of the Church at whose altars we stand. We have no personal ends whatever to answer; and perhaps it is as well distinctly to state, that if the circulation of this paper should be such as to leave any surplus, after a reasonable compensation to the Printer, such surplus will be devoted to any religious object within the diocese, which the Bishop may direct.

No specific plan can, with prudence, be set forth, to which we are, under all circumstances, to be confined.—It may be sufficient to state, that we propose to insert essays explanatory of Scripture, and of the constitution, forms and distinctive features of our Church, with the design of making our people better acquainted with her claims to their affectionate regard and their preference—a point upon which perhaps, too many of them are uninformed. BIOGRAPHY, of persons eminent for their piety, we shall also transfer to our pages. Information, also, connected with the CHURCH wherever she is found—in England and Ireland especially, where her situation is so interesting at the present moment, and where the hands of the Philistines are ready to seize upon the ark, which we and our fathers have been accustomed to reverence—and which we pray Him who alone can “still the madness of the people,” yet to preserve from the reckless hands of misguided men. We intend also to give frequent intelligence respecting that prosperous scion from our parent Church, which is now flourishing with such vigour in the neighbouring States, and may be regarded as the chief bulwark there, of the truth as it is in Jesus, which the excess of liberty seems to have led so many thousands to pervert or deny. Besides what information the Reports of THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS may afford, respecting the Church within the sphere of their operations, and of which our members are very generally ignorant, we hope that our Brethren in Canada, New-Brunswick, Newfoundland, Bermuda, and the West-Indies, will not refuse to help us to present from time to time, a correct and interesting account of the state of religion and of the Church in particular, in those regions.

From our Brethren in Nova-Scotia especially, we hope we shall receive much local information connected with the Church. Very many have both time and ability to prepare something for our columns every fortnight; and we beg leave to suggest in particular, that some historical account of each Parish, from the commencement of episcopal ministrations in it, would be interesting, and useful likewise as a record, with reference to some future history of the Colonial Church. Some have already promised such contributions.

Missionary Intelligence generally, both domestic and foreign may be expected in our columns.

Nor shall we confine ourselves to matter purely religious—but shall occasionally devote some space to subjects of a literary character—notices of new and useful works, scientific information: and in general whatever may promise mental improvement, always however in subordination to the “excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord.”

And as it is not inconsistent with such knowledge to mark “the signs of the times,” we propose to give a short

summary of political intelligence, and of passing events at home and abroad. But no advertisements, unless connected with the cause of religion, morality, or literature, will be inserted.

As to the principles by which the Editors will be guided, when it is known that they are Ministers of the Church of England, it will be unnecessary to say more than that their principles are those of the Church, as set forth in her articles, homilies, and liturgy. We are of no sect or party whatever, but members and ministers of that “church of the living God.” Received into her tender fold by baptism, carefully trained in her good old paths in childhood, bound to her by the deliberate choice and preference of maturer years, devoted to her service, heart and soul, as watchmen upon her walls,—as we desire no other, so we know of no better guidance, than she gives us for all our undertakings with reference to time or eternity. And we believe, that we shall best subserve the cause of our blessed Master, by endeavouring to fix our people’s minds in the principles of the same Church, which is “built upon the foundation of the prophets and apostles, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” A consistent churchman must be a consistent christian.

And now having said this much of our object, plan and principles, we hope we may be allowed to anticipate the support of every churchman, not only in this Diocese, but also in the Canadas, where we believe no publication of the kind exists.—To the Clergy especially we look with hopes which we trust they will not disappoint. If they are only cordial in lending their influence in its behalf, the work will prosper—if not, we must suffer the mortification and the CHURCH the disgrace, of a failure;—for surely such it would be for the Colonial Church of British North America to stifle in the birth, a periodical designed to promote the special interests of that Church, and of sound, rational and scriptural piety. When we consider how many thousands there are belonging to our church, even in this province, and how many dollars are yearly wasted by many of these, we can hardly allow the idea of a failure of support in such a cause, to enter our minds. To such of our Brethren in this and the adjoining colonies as have cheered us with the voice of encouragement, and with the more substantial aid of subscription lists, we offer our hearty thanks. To those few who have chilled us with their doubts and fears, we say that we hope they will come to a better mind.

Our respected BISHOP has been pleased to signify his approval of our project, by subscribing for ten copies; and his Lordship has been pleased to inform us, that in his recent visitation of New Brunswick, he recommended it as far as he properly could, to the Clergy there. To the excellent Bishop of Quebec, we respectfully tender our thanks for his encouraging letter, and his suggestions.

And to the Venerable Archdeacons Spencer of Bermuda, and Wix of Newfoundland, our acknowledgments are likewise due, for their promise of patronage—of which we trust they will themselves assist in rendering our publication worthy by enriching it with the valuable productions of their pens.

In soliciting communications from all who desire to promote the declared objects of our undertaking, we must take leave to reserve in the outset, a distinct prerogative of inserting or rejecting, what they may send, as to our judgment may seem most conducive to those objects,—a privilege which we must steadily exercise without regard to persons.

We wish also to avoid as much as possible every thing of a controversial nature, which too often savours more of