

portunity, upon this journey, of paying another visit to Bishop's College.

Towards the close of this year, the Bishop received a call to England, which he had never once visited since his consecration to the episcopate in 1836. The metropolitan at Sydney, in Australia, had, for some time, been in communication with the authorities in church and state at home, upon the subject of synodical action and other matters of interest to the Colonial Church, and was proceeding to England to follow up these subjects in personal conference; and as it was judged desirable that some of his brethren of the colonial episcopate should meet him there, the Bishop of Quebec, as being, by date of consecration, the senior prelate of the British North American territories, was invited to take part in the deliberations thus concerted. He accordingly addressed a pastoral letter to the clergy and laity of his diocese, relative to this subject, on the 23rd of December, and on the 30th left Quebec for Boston, via Lennoxville, to take passage by steamer for Liverpool.

1853.

The Bishop passed the first Sunday of this year, which fell on the 2nd day of the month, in his own diocese, and preached in the morning at Sherbrooke and at Lennoxville in the afternoon. The Rev. A. W. Mountain accompanied him as far as Boston, where he embarked on the 5th; and he landed at Liverpool on the 16th, having had the singular good fortune to take in as his fellow passenger, from Halifax, the Bishop of Newfoundland, with whom he divided the Sunday duties on board. He proceeded the next day to London, and soon found that his visit, after such a length of absence, to his native land, was certainly not a holiday. He was, together with other Colonial Bishops who were at home at the time naturally, a great deal engaged in the business which carried him home; and they had occasion to seek counsel often from the Archbishop of Canterbury and other eminent English prelates, as well as to confer with ministers of state and members of the imperial parliament. Councils of Bishops, presided over by the two English metropolitans, were lately held, and there were occasions when as many as eighteen, including three or four of the colonial episcopate, were found assembled together. The failure after all of the government measure for the relief of the Colonial Church, in two successive sessions of parliament, is sufficiently known.

In the deliberations to which reference is here made, the Bishop of Quebec met Dr. Broughton, the Metropolitan of Sydney, but once. They had been consecrated together in 1836; they went out to their respective dioceses, and returned no more till they met again in England now. The next occasion which brought them into conjunction was when the eyes of Bishop Broughton were closed in death, and Bishop Mountain attended as one of his pall-bearers in Canterbury Cathedral, where his remains are deposited. The Bishop of Quebec was a guest upon this occasion, at the Missionary College of St. Augustine, in Canterbury, where, among many other objects of interest, he found, in the number of the students, a Negro, a Hindoo, and an Esquimaux Indian.

The Bishop also found another task awaiting him, for which he was entirely unprepared. The change of ministry, which had not been looked for when he left Quebec, carried with it a change of policy respecting the Canada clergy reserves; and the course adopted by the new government was that of surrendering the patrimony of the church to be dealt with at will by the Canadian legislature. The Bishop, so far as his efforts could be supposed to have any

influence, exerted himself to the utmost in opposition to what he believed to be an unwise, unjust and ungodly measure. Among other endeavors, he was a party concerned in different petitions to the imperial parliament, and he addressed a letter, in a printed form, to the Bishops of England and the Irish Representative Bishops, earnestly calling upon them to make a stand against the meditated licence for spoliation.

During his stay in England, his lordship was, as in all duty and gratitude bound, frequent in his attendance at the weekly committee meetings of the *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel*, and he also took part in public meetings held on behalf of that society at London, Bath, Cheltenham, and Havant. He was also very constantly engaged in preaching, either in London, or different places in the country. In the month of February he assisted in the consecration of a new church at Banbury, by the Bishop of Oxford, and on the day following preached an ordination sermon in the same church, at the desire of that prelate. On Ascension day, he assisted in the consecration of the new Bishop of Lincoln (Dr. Jackson), in Lambeth parish church.

In the month of June, shortly before his return to Canada, he passed some few days at Oxford, in the midst of the ceremonials and festivities held in honor of the Earl of Derby's installation as Chancellor; and received at the hands of the Earl, in that capacity, the honorary degree of D.C.L. (the Bishop's own university being Cambridge).

The Bishop embarked at Liverpool for Boston on the 25th of June, bringing with him the Rev. W. Binet (now missionary at Port Neuf), who had been ordained deacon on Trinity Sunday, in St. Paul's cathedral, under letters dimissory from his hand, addressed to the Bishop of London.

His lordship reached Quebec on the morning of Sunday, the 10th of July; and entered, on the same day, upon his public duties in that city. The visitation of the diocese was now, in its remaining portions, to be prosecuted; and the first of these portions was in the region of the gulf of St. Lawrence. His lordship accordingly embarked on the 8th of August, in company with the Rev. A. W. Mountain, his chaplain, in a small trading schooner bound for *Gaspe Bay*. The line of missions along this coast are situated about four hundred miles and upwards from Quebec, extending from Gaspe Basin to the Bay of Chaleurs. There are four missions, in which there are nine churches. There are also school-houses, in which service is held. Eleven confirmations were held, in all, and 132 persons were confirmed. Three churches and four burying-grounds were consecrated. The mission of the Magdalen Islands (which are comprehended in the county of Gaspé), distant one hundred and twenty miles from the Gaspe coast, remain to be visited; but the Bishop and Mr. Mountain had promised to assist at the consecration of Fredericton cathedral, in the province of New Brunswick, and the execution of this promise was to be accomplished first. The facilities and accommodations for getting from place to place in the gulf are exceedingly scanty, and often of a very coarse and rude description, and by no means ready at command. Upon the occasion here described, the Bishop was most opportunely aided, and many of his arrangements were made comparatively prompt and easy by the accidental circumstance of there being cruisers and small armed vessels dependent upon them, engaged in the protection of the fisheries. These were in different instances most kindly made available for him, when it was not incompatible with the dispositions for

their particular service. Having crossed over, with his chaplain, to New Brunswick, on the opposite side of the Bay of Chaleurs, and proceeded to Fredericton, where they took their appointed share in all the interesting and happy services connected with the consecration of the beautiful cathedral,*—they returned to Miramichi, and thence went over to the *Magdalen Islands*. There the mission among the long destitute Protestant settlements has, by the blessing of a gracious God, taken root; the case of this mission being peculiar, some few details may be here given. One church is built: the erection of another is in full train: pastoral supervision, the day school, the Sunday school, are in operation. Very lately, in 1854, Admiral Coffin, the proprietor of the islands, has given two handsome sets of communion plate, and £20 towards the parsonage house, with other presents. Other benefactors have given liberal supplies of testaments and school books: others still are providing certain articles of church furniture. The settlers, according to their poor ability, are forward and zealous themselves. These islands are totally cut off from all intercourse with the rest of the world for nearly half the year. The missionary has a life of great exposure, not without occasional peril. The Bishop confirmed at three places, and the recipients of the rite were sixty-one, making a total for the District of Gaspé of 193. His lordship was obliged to make an immense circuit, returning to New Brunswick, and thence going to Boston, to get back to Quebec. Between these two last mentioned places, he passed a Sunday at Lennoxville, and preached both there and at Sherbrooke. Immediately after his return home, he held an ordination in the cathedral church, upon the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels, at which three gentlemen were admitted to priest's orders. The Bishop preached the sermon himself.

Early in October, the Bishop visited the missions of *West and East Frampton*, in the county of La Beauce, to confirm at each place. The joint number of candidates brought forward was 53.

1854.

On the 11th of January in this year, the Visitation of the Clergy was held, and the Episcopal Charge was delivered in the Cathedral Church at Quebec. Two years and a half only, had elapsed since the last occasion of the same kind; but the *Diocesan Church Society* had, for certain reasons of apparent cogency, passed a by-law to change their *Anniversary* from July to January; and the Diocese of Quebec is not of a nature to admit, conveniently, of calling the body of the Clergy together more than once in the same year. The Bishop, therefore, felt it necessary so to frame his arrangements as to bring into close conjunction three high occasions of the Church—the *Visitation*, the *Church Society Anniversary*, (both appointed for the same day), and the *Diocesan assembly of the Clergy and Lay-delegates* called together for the 12th. Of the two latter Meetings, a full account appears in the February No. of this paper for 1854.

The meetings were greatly thinned by severity of the weather and the occurrence of snow-storms which obstructed the travelling. There

* A full account of all these proceedings appears in the October No. for 1853, of the *Canadian Ecclesiastical Gazette*, published at Quebec, before the present paper with the same title was established at Toronto, and the accounts here rendered of the Bishop's travels, &c., up to the end of 1853, are chiefly abridged, with the omission of names and a variety of other particulars, from the journals of the Episcopal Visitations, which appeared in that Quebec publication.

The sermons preached by the Bishop of Quebec, at Fredericton, were left, by desire, to be published in that place.