

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 II.

LUNENBURG, N. S. THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1837.

NUMBER 9.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT

Of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for 1836.

In recording the transactions of the past year, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel desires, in the first place, to return humble thanks to the Giver of all good for the encouragement afforded to its labours in different quarters of the world.

The erection of Episcopal Sees at Montreal, Australia, and Bombay has added three new branches to the Church of Christ, and opened so many new channels through which the assistance of the Society may be conveyed to the Colonies and Dependencies of Great Britain.

The collection under the authority of a King's Letter, issued in the year 1835, for the purpose of supplying the spiritual wants of the emancipated Negroes, has realised the sum of 34,000*l*.; while the fund which was raised by subscription for the same purpose, including the grants of this Society, of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and of the Society for advancing the Christian Faith in the British West-Indies, amounts to 29,500*l*. From these two sources, together with the sums received from his Majesty's Government out of the Parliamentary Grant for the Education of the Negroes, the Society hopes to give effectual assistance in the erection of Churches, Chapels, and School-houses throughout the West-Indies, and to contribute for a time at least, towards the maintenance of the Clergymen, Catechists, and Schoolmasters, whose services are so urgently required in those Colonies.

Another gratifying occurrence is the addition which the Society has been able to make to its band of Missionaries in the Presidency of Madras. The want of such reinforcement has been felt and acknowledged from the time when the superintendence of the Southern Missions was transferred to this Institution, by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. But the efforts made to supply the deficiency proved unsuccessful; and the number of Missionaries actually employed in the year 1834, namely seven, amounted only to one more than at the death of Bishop Heber, in 1826. Since the publication of the last Report, five Missionaries have been dispatched to Madras from this country, a sixth has been ordained in India by the Bishop of Calcutta, and two more candidates for ordination are expected to sail before the end of the present year.

With this addition the number of Missionaries in the South will be seventeen; and the whole number in India, exclusive of the Principal and Professors of Bishop's College, will amount to twenty-one.

Funds—In 1835, the income from subscriptions has not realized so large a sum as that which was collected under the peculiar circumstances of the preceding year; it amounted to little more than 10,000*l*.; while at the same time, the income from the funds, diminished by previous sales, was reduced to 4776*l*.; and the whole expenditure, exclusive of the West-Indies, amounted to more than 32,000*l*. The deficiency was covered by sales of stock, producing on the whole upwards of 13,000*l*. So large a diminution of the Society's funded property demanded a careful examination of the various heads of expenditure; but the result did not authorise the hope of any material reduction, except by measures which could not fail to cripple the most important of the Society's Missions.

In North America, the expenditure, during the year 1835, was 18,799*l*., being an excess of 3000*l*. above the sum which the Society, in the recent arrangement with his Majesty's Government, undertook to lay out in that quarter. This change will be diminished during the current year, by the transfer of the greater part of the salaries in Nova Scotia to the Parliamentary fund; and by the discontinuance of the allowances formerly made to schoolmasters in

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. At the same time the expenditure will be increased by the salaries of new Missionaries employed in the dioceses of Nova Scotia and Quebec; and by the very considerable enlargement of the East-India establishment. Under these circumstances there is obvious necessity for increased exertion on the part of the friends and supporters of the Institution, and several measures have been adopted, with a view to make the spiritual wants of the colonies more extensively known throughout the mother country.

The first of these consists in the adoption of a plan which has been recommended from many quarters;—viz. the publishing and circulating extracts from the Society's correspondence with the various quarters of the world to which its operations now extend.

Another method of increasing the resources of the Society, to which attention has been specially called during the past year, is the establishment of Parochial Committees in all places where the Clergy are able to set them on foot, and recommend them to the favourable notice of the parishioners.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The information received during the last year respecting the diocese of Nova Scotia is particularly interesting; and considerable portions of it will be found in the Appendix. The Reports from the Bishop contain accounts of two journeys performed during the summer of 1835, the first to various parts of Nova Scotia, and the second to New Brunswick. There are also Reports from Archdeacons Willis and Wis of their several visitations; from the Rev. Mr. Stevenson, Visiting Missionary, who travelled along the eastern shore of Nova Scotia, in the months of December and January last; and from Clergymen stationed in all parts of the diocese.

The result of the whole appears to be, that as far as relates to the means of religious and moral instruction, the inhabitants of this extensive territory may be divided into four different classes: the first consisting of those for whose spiritual wants some considerable provision has been made by Clergymen residing in their immediate neighbourhood, or giving attendance and performing divine service on alternate Sundays or week-days. In this division may be included the capitals of the different provinces, and the territory immediately surrounding them, together with a considerable portion of the western shores of Nova Scotia. "The state of the Missions," observes Archdeacon Willis, "between Liverpool and Chester, both places included, comprehending a distance of sixty or seventy miles, is such as to show that the Church is rising fast in these districts, and its principles and doctrines gradually spreading and taking deeper root in the hearts and affections of the people. The Clergy, without exception, are zealous, active, and indefatigable. The intermediate stations for service are so divided among the different Missions, that the whole ground I may almost say, is occupied by them, each one extending his line of duty half way to meet the other. This necessarily entails upon the Clergy much labour and fatigue; but they feel that they are engaged in a good cause, and are willing to undergo any difficulties that belong to the discharge of the duties of their high calling and office." This account is confirmed by the concurring testimony of the Bishop, by the statements received from the Clergy themselves, and by the contributions raised to supply the recent diminution of salary, and to meet other expenses connected with the building and repairs of Churches.

Here, therefore, is an incontrovertible proof of the good effected through the instrumentality of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and of the efficiency of the system which it pursues. The district above described is precisely that which formed the earliest object of the Society's attention in British North America; which has had the best opportu-

nity of appreciating the conduct and character of its Clergymen connected with the Society is invariably placed. Looking upon the incessant labours of the present Bishop of Nova Scotia, it can occasion no surprise to find that the Divine blessing has rested upon his work; at the same time the Society feels called upon to be grateful, that here, at least, he is permitted to witness the abundant fruit which has sprung up in the vineyard of Christ.

The second division of the diocese of Nova Scotia consists of the greater part of the Missionary stations in the province of New Brunswick, and in some parts of Newfoundland. In none of these places can it be said that the country is pervaded by religious instruction. There are large intervals where it is almost entirely wanting. A thinly settled country, and large tracts of uninhabited forest, form obstacles which the zeal of the Missionary has not been able to surmount; and the demands made upon the Colonists for contributions towards the maintenance of their Ministers, are still imperfectly complied with. The journal of the Bishop of Nova Scotia's visit to New Brunswick, will exhibit abundant proof of the care which he bestowed upon this matter; and it is to be hoped that the effect of his urgent appeals will be visible, ere long, throughout the country.

Another division of the diocese, distinct as respects the state of religious instruction from either of the preceding, is to be found upon the eastern coast of the province of Nova Scotia; parts of which have been settled from an early period, but even now are scarcely accessible from Halifax, except by water, and are divided into so many small settlements, and separated so completely by arms of the sea, that great labour is requisite on the part of every one who visits them. Yet even here, important good has been effected, under the Bishop's superintendence, by Visiting Missionaries. The present Missionary, the Rev. J. Stevenson, is employed during the greater portion of the year at King's College, Windsor; and has spent several summer vacations in travelling from house to house along this coast. The last Report received from him contains an account of a winter visit, which will be read with much satisfaction. Of the inhabitants of one settlement, Mr. Stevenson says, "They are quite illiterate, and capable only of oral instruction, but so desirous of profiting by every opportunity which comes in their way, that they frequently attend a Minister from place to place for three or four successive days. With the exception of one female, not an individual in the place knows a letter." On another occasion he observes, "I have long looked in vain for some fruits of my ministry here (Mary Joseph), but at length I have reason to hope that the Word of God has reached the hearts of numbers. On this day (December 25th) I was listened to, not only with fixed attention, but with strong emotion. The preparation previous to Confirmation, and the Confirmation itself, had produced a very good effect. The people are desirous of educating their children, and employed during the past winter a Teacher, whom the Bishop had kindly supplied with books."

And in a letter to the Bishop of Nova Scotia prefixed to the journal, Mr. Stevenson says, "The most striking features in the occurrences of the past year, are preparations for the erection of two new churches, in places which were lately shrouded in almost heathen darkness, and had seen three generations rise and fall without any stated ordinances of Christianity." And again, "The people have become, as a body, much better instructed in their duty to God and man, and appear to lead more sober, righteous, and godly lives. Between four and five hundred have been prepared for Confirmation, and have been admitted to that solemn ordinance of our Church.