

to scatter the good seed of the Word; and when the round of journeying was complete, renewing, without a respite, the same toilsome travel, to observe the growth of the planted seed, and water and foster it with their preaching and their prayers, with their tears and their blood?

A perusal of the Episcopal acts of the Bishop of New York, as detailed at the late meeting of the Convention of that Diocese, awakens in us as much astonishment as delight at the vast amount of the labour performed by that indefatigable prelate in a single year,—the thousands of miles which his journeys embrace, and the sermons, confirmations, consecrations, &c. which take place, not in the intervals of travel, after body and mind are refreshed by repose, but almost daily, and often twice, and even three times in a day!

From the 'Churchman' we abstract the following brief synopsis of the Episcopal Acts of the Bishop of New York, during the year ending at the late Diocesan Convention; and we annex the refreshing statement which the Bishop furnishes of the general reception of those services he was so actively engaged in fulfilling, as well as of the general prospects of the Church over which he so faithfully presides:

- Ordained 19 deacons.
- Ordained 17 priests.
- Instituted 7 rectors and 1 assistant minister.
- Confirmed 1252 persons on 96 occasions.
- Laid the corner-stone of 3 churches.
- Consecrated 16 churches.

On all occasions of the performance of episcopal duties, on which sermons were preached, that duty was performed by myself, except where otherwise particularly noted.

It has been to me a source of devout gratitude to God to perceive, in my visits to the congregations of this Diocese, through the past year, evidences of a state of general prosperity,—temporal, far beyond what I feared would be the consequence of the prevailing temporal distress, but mainly spiritual, never, I believe, surpassed in the history of our Diocese. Our parishes were never more generally supplied with ministerial services, and our clergy never more actively engaged in their Master's work. The blessed spirit of Christian unity and affection is strongly cherished and extensively prevalent; the spirit of true godliness is evidently increasing among us; and certainly I have no recollection of a year in which the services connected with my visitations have been so uniformly well attended. God be blessed for this happy state of things! and may he overrule it to the praise of the glory of his sanctifying and saving grace!

After this account of the Episcopal labours of the Bishop of New York, it becomes us to look at the evidences of a kindred zeal nearer home. None who knew the Lord Bishop of Montreal as a parish clergyman—who knew his exemplary devotion to every department of that interesting duty—but would be well prepared to hear that, in his higher office, he had become the watchful and never tiring overseer. But we shall adduce his own acts to speak for themselves.

STATEMENT of the Ordinations and Confirmations held in the Diocese of Quebec, since the assumption of the Episcopal charge, upon the spot, by the Lord Bishop of Montreal.

ORDINATIONS.

- In the Cathedral Church at Quebec:—
- 1836.
- Oct. 28th, (St. Simon and St. Jude)—DEACON, W. M. Herchmer, B. A., of Queen's College, in the University of Oxford: Appointed Chaplain to the Penitentiary at Kingston.
- Nov. 1st, (All Saints)—PRIESTS, The Rev. Harvey Vachell, Travelling Missionary in the District of Quebec: The Rev. S. S. Strong, Acting Chaplain to the Forces at Quebec, (since appointed to the charge of Bytown and Hull): The Rev. A. Knight, Missionary at Frampton and parts adjacent, in the District of Quebec: The Rev. C. P. Reid, Assistant Minister at St. John's, L. C.
- In Christ Church, Montreal:—
- 1837.
- Jan. 15th, (Sunday)—PRIEST, The Rev. J. C. Usher, Acting Missionary to the Mohawk Indians, Grand River, with the charge of Brandford annexed.
- In the Cathedral Church at Quebec:—
- May 21st, (Sunday)—DEACONS, H. D. Sewell, M. A. of Trinity College, Oxford, to a temporary charge in settlements adjacent to Quebec: W. Brethour, B. A., of Trinity College, Dublin, to the Chateaugay Mission, L. C.: R. H. Bourne, formerly Student in the University of New York, to the Mission of Rawdon, in the District of Montreal.
- June 4th, (Sunday)—DEACON, H. Scadding, B. A. of St. John's College, Cambridge, at present engaged as tutor in the family of Sir John Colborne. PRIEST, The Rev. F. L. Osler, B. A. of Catharine Hall, Cambridge, Missionary from the U. C. Clergy Society, appointed to the charge of Tecumseth and West Gwillimsbury, in the Home District, U. C.
- Sept. 24th, (Sunday)—DEACONS, F. J. Lundy, S. C. L. of University College, Oxford, Head Master of Quebec Classical School: F. G. Elliot, formerly Theological Student at Chambly, at present serving the congregation at Colchester, near Amherstburgh, U. C.—PRIEST, The Rev. W. M. Herchmer, (see ordination 28th Oct. 1836)
- Nov. 5th, (Sunday)—DEACON, E. Cusack B. A. of Catharine Hall, Cambridge, to the Mission of Gaspé Bay, in the Gulph of St. Lawrence.

CONFIRMATIONS.

1837.

WINTER-VISITATION.

- Jan. 10th. At William-Henry or Sorel—No. of persons 22
- 12th. Township of Rawdon.....27
- 16th. Montreal.....151
- 18th. St. Andrew's, (Ottawa River).....20
- 19th. Grenville, (Ottawa River).....20
- 26th. Vandreuil, (Ottawa River).....25
- 28th. Coteau du Lac.....14
- 29th. Ormestown, (Chateaugay River).....72
- Feb. 2nd. Chateaugay Basin.....26
- 4th. Chambly,.....29

- 5th. St. John's.....10
- 7th. Clarenceville, (near the Isle aux Noix).....31
- 9th. Philipsburgh (St. Armand West, Missisquoi bay) 12
- 11th. Frelighsburg, (St. Armand East).....21
- 12th. Township of Dunham.....32
- 16th. Abbotsford, (Yamaska Mountain).....21
- 19th. Froste Village, Township of Shefford..... 4
- 21st. Charleston, Township of Hatley.....10
- 23rd. Township of Eaton.....11
- 26th. Sherbrooke, (Township of Ascot).....22
- 28th. Township of Shipton.....13
- March 2d. Drummondville, Township of Grantham.....16
- 12th. Frampton, (District of Quebec).....55

Summer-Visitation in the District of Gaspé in the Gulph of St. Lawrence.

- June 25th. Gaspé Basin.....80
- 27th. St. George's Cove, (Gaspé Bay)..... 4
- 28th. Mal Bay.....14
- 29th. Percie..... 6
- 30th. L'Anse au beau-Fils.....15
- July 2nd. New Carlisle, (Bay of Chaleurs).....39
- 4th. Hopetown, do. do. 4
- 4th. Pessebiac, do. do. 9

The whole number of persons confirmed is exceedingly small in proportion to the Church of England population in Lower Canada: but a variety of circumstances concurred to produce this effect. The late Bishop of Quebec had recently held confirmations at Quebec (which furnishes a larger number of candidates than any other place in the whole Diocese,) and at Three Rivers, the confirmation at the latter place comprehending the candidates from Nicolet. These three stations, therefore, were omitted. The Riviere du Loup was twice visited by the Bishop of Montreal for the purpose of confirming the young persons of the church at that place and in the settlements in the rear—but in both instances the clergyman in charge and the catechist acting under his direction, had been prevented, by the extraordinary state of the roads and weather, and other accidental causes, from bringing forward the candidates. The joint Mission of Bytown and Hull was visited by the Bishop; but there were untoward circumstances which had precluded the preparation of the young persons of the flock. The Mission of Stanbridge had been for some time vacant, and there had been no person there to prepare them. In the township of Leeds and the adjacent tract of country, (in the District of Quebec,) some unavoidable impediments to the satisfactory preparation of the candidates had occurred, and the Bishop, at the instance of the ministers, postponed the confirmation for some months.

Independently of these deductions from causes which prevented the holding of confirmations, they were greatly thinned by different circumstances, in some of the places where they were held. The winter was remarkable for snow-storms; and in many instances, in the eastern townships, the roads communicating with the back settlements were so choked up, that the people could not go out to meet the Bishop. In the District of Gaspé, it having been impossible, from the uncertainties of the voyage, to fix a precise time beforehand for the confirmation, many persons who would have presented themselves, being engaged in the fisheries, were obliged to be out at sea. Some, however, who were within reach of the intelligence, came in again for the purpose of receiving the rite.

But more than all, it is to be remembered that there are unhappily many places in different parts of the Province, where large congregations of the Church of England are totally destitute of the services of a clergyman or even of a catechist, and consequently will not be so assisted as to be prepared for the important solemnity of confirmation.

We understand that, in the anticipation of a division, at no distant period, of the Diocese, the Bishop of Montreal has signified his intention to confine his official labours, as it respects Upper Canada, to those matters which can be disposed of by correspondence, till the result of the negotiations for the object just stated shall be known. This decision, however, is subject to alteration, should any urgent occasion present itself, requiring the presence of the Bishop in the Upper Province; but should no such occasion occur, his Lordship conceives it best to leave it to the new Bishop to take up the charge, as far as concerns the duties of visitation and personal inspection, where it was left by the late lamented Bishop of Quebec, and to put every thing in train from the first, according to his own judgment.

In a late number we acknowledged the receipt of a Sermon by Bishop Doane of New Jersey, entitled, "The Apostolical commission the Missionary charter of the Church." This important and well sustained position is very naturally deduced from the text adopted by the Right Reverend preacher, viz. Matthew xxviii. 18—20. Apart however from internal evidences, which so clearly establish the proposition which the learned Bishop assumes, a mass of practical proof is brought forward to shew that this settled principle of the apostles was duly seconded by their acts.

We have already mentioned that this excellent sermon was occasioned by the ordination of the celebrated Missionary, Mr. Joseph Wolff, but we cannot better introduce this portion of the subject to our readers than in the words of the eloquent Bishop himself:

Brethren of this congregation, it is by virtue of the commission given by Jesus Christ to the apostles, and in furtherance of the great trust reposed in them for this most glorious object, that we are gathered here to-day. And strange, beyond the fondest dreams of a poetic fancy, the circumstances of the case. There is a little village (Weilersbach) in Bavaria, the residence, it may be of an hundred Jews. The Rabbi has a son, whom he instructs "after the most perfect manner of the law of his fathers." Even from four years old, he is accustomed to regard the Christians who surround him as worshippers of a mere cross of wood. But God has better things in store for him. He leads him in a way of which he did not know; and, through the instructions of a village barber, he is brought, at eight years old, to the determination to be a Christian. It was, of course, a child's conclusion. But with his growth it grew, and strengthened with his strength. Difficulties could not daunt it, opposition did but confirm it. Even the

love of parents and of kindred could not overcome it. And, at fourteen years of age, he solicits Christian baptism. His first acquaintance with Christianity is in the Church of Rome. His first determination is to be a Missionary. From the bosom of the pious family of a German nobleman, who dignified his station by humility and piety, he proceeds to Rome, to prepare himself at her most distinguished seat of learning, the College of the Propaganda, for the work to which he is devoted. But still, the Lord has better things in store for him. His unsophisticated mind discovers soon that the Christianity of Rome is not the Christianity which, in Count Stolberg's family, had won and satisfied his youthful heart. Litanies to the Virgin, pretended miracles, the suppression of the Scriptures, the infallibility of the Pope, are to him quite inconsistent with the simplicity of the Cross. Alarmed at the corruptions of doctrine, and disgusted with the corruptions in practice, which deform the Church of Rome, he openly denounces both, and determines to go from her. "I will go to the East," he says, "and preach the Gospel of Christ!" After a residence of between two and three years, during which he received what the Church of Rome, without the least shadow of authority from Scripture, denominates the *minor orders*, he is sent away, by the Pope's express command, as one who would taint the scholars of the Propaganda with his sentiments; the Cardinal to whom this office was invested, and who was his personal and intimate friend, performing it with tears, and assuring him, in his parting letter, of his unqualified affection. Cast off by the mother of his adoption, and sent adrift among the errors of German infidelity, it had been but natural, if he had so made shipwreck of the faith; and passed, as so many pass, from the slavery of believing too much, to the far sorer bondage of believing nothing. But still, the Lord has better things in store for him. "The providence of God," as he himself expresses it, "conducted him to some English Christians." His feet are turned to England. He arrives at London, not yet twenty-four years of age. He finds in the Church of England the Gospel, which for sixteen years he has been seeking. He repairs to Cambridge. He enjoys the patronage, the instructions, and the confidence of the Rev. Charles Simeon and the Rev. Professor Lee. He sets out, two years after, in the Spring of 1821, on that errand of Christian love to his benighted brethren of the Jewish faith, which, from Gibraltar and Malta and Alexandria and Cairo and Jerusalem, has carried him through Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Georgia, Persia, Tartary, Koordistan, Bokhara, Thibet, Arabia, Abyssinia, and India. He has been, with the apostle, in weakness and painfulness and watchings and hunger and thirst and cold and nakedness. With him, he has been beaten with rods, and in perils among false brethren. He has been thrice sold as a slave, and twice condemned to death. And he is now here, to receive—what he has never yet received, nor professed to receive—the Scriptural authority to preach the Gospel; and, though in learning, in experience, in wisdom, in sufferings for the Gospel's sake, so greatly my superior, to go forth, from the laying on of my hands—such is the order of God's providence—the recipient of that lowest order of the ministry which Christ has established in his Church, the office of a deacon; and, thus entrusted with a portion of that high commission, to "make disciples of all nations," which Jesus gave to his apostles, to resume his wanderings, and renew his efforts, and prove, in suffering and toil and self-denial, that, with Paul—like him, a convert from the old Mosaic faith—his "heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they may be saved."

There is not a sentence of this beautiful and impressive sermon which we should not be glad to transfer to our columns; but further extracts, especially the exquisitely fine allusion to the ashes of Wickliff, we faithfully promise to our readers at no distant date.

The following letter, from being forwarded to us, we presume was designed for insertion in 'The Church,' and we publish it accordingly. Much as we regret that any cause for dissension should have arisen between the Churches of England and Scotland, we rejoice that there is one common ground on which the members of both can plant themselves side by side, animated with a kindred zeal,—the suppression of "the enemies of our country." And while we know that, in its hour of danger, the Archdeacon of York was amongst the most fearless and energetic, we feel as well assured that the Hon. William Morris will be found equally prompt and intrepid at the call of duty.

PERTH, 13th December, 1837.

SIR,—To the politeness of the Rev. Editor of "The Church," I suppose I am indebted for Nos. 25 and 26 of that paper which reached me by the mail this night. In them I perceive numbers 1 and 2 of a series of Letters which you are addressing to me through the medium of that journal, and this is briefly to say that when you have completed the series—and when the enemies of our country are subdued, you shall receive a reply from

Sir,
Your obd't humble servt.
W. MORRIS.

To the Hon. & Ven. the }
Archdeacon of York. }

SIR MATTHEW HALE'S OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS DAY.

He had for many years a particular devotion for Christmas Day; and after he had received the sacrament, and been in the performance of the public worship of that day, he commonly wrote a copy of verses on the honour of his Saviour, as a fit expression of the joy he felt in his soul, at the return of that glorious anniversary. There are seventeen of these copies printed, which he writ on seventeen several Christmas Days, by which the world has a taste of his poetical genius; in which, if he had thought it worth his time to have excelled, he might have been eminent, as well as in other things: but he writ them rather to entertain himself, than to merit the laurel. ***** Thus he used to sing on former Christmas Days; but now he was to be admitted to bear his part in the new songs above: so that day, which he had spent in so much spiritual joy, proved to be indeed the day of his jubilee and deliverance; for between two and three in the afternoon [of Christmas Day, 1676], he breathed out his righteous and pious soul. His end was peace; he had no strugglings, nor seemed to be in any pangs in his last moments.—*Ep. Burnet.*

DIED,

At the Rectory, Bath, on Saturday the 16th inst. Robert Pascal, infant son of the Rev. A. F. Atkinson, aged 2 days.

LETTERS received to Friday, Dec. 22d:—

John White, Esq. rem.; Rev. A. F. Atkinson, rem.; Rev. R. Blakey, [the mistake has been rectified and the required Nos. sent.]—Mr. James McLaren [the papers shall be sent.]

In Letter 3, of the Ven. The Archdeacon of York, inserted in our last, 2d column, line 40 from the top, there is an error in the punctuation. It should read thus, "many of them have been divided into Parishes, and the patronage retained in the Crown; and in all Commissions, Instructions to Governors &c."