

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, SEPTEMBER 7, 1837.

NUMBER 21.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

ROV. J. S. CLARKE'S Sermon concluded.

THE CHURCH'S HOPE.

But still we will not be discouraged. The God of Israel, though sometimes a God that hideth himself, is never absent from his people,—though clouds and thick darkness arise between ourselves and our Great Benefactor, and conceal his merciful intentions from our narrow and finite understandings, yet we may rest assured He is never far from us;—unchangeable in His goodness and full of compassion, His ears are ever open to our supplications, and our tears shall not be shed in vain. Here then is our hope when all things else fail us:—though vain is the aid of man, He who is greater than man has promised to abide with his confiding children and to send them His accompanying Spirit. "Lo! I am with you always," is His encouraging declaration, and upon this they place their trust, and build by His grace their church; much need have they in truth of this rock whercon to rest, particularly in those pestilential regions to which we have alluded. What, I would ask, what in those remote spiritual deserts could support and animate "the teachers," but unhesitating reliance on those everlasting arms which are always outstretched to assist them? What beside could have enabled them voluntarily to forego all that is tender and endearing in human nature—to snap asunder the bonds of filial and paternal affection—to bid a long farewell to the associates of early life, in many instances to part with the means of subsistence; and alas! very often even with life itself? Nothing, you will doubtless reply, nothing save this could have taught them to exhibit so sublime a specimen of the power of faith and christian love—nothing else could have prevented them from staggering at the command to "go" from their country to their kindred and their friends, and "teach" the pagan tribes. Oh! my brethren, how faintly we can form an idea of the extreme exhaustion of both body and soul which some of these missionaries endure when the whole head is sick and the heart faint! yet in the hour of their most afflictive sufferings, and amid their most oppressive calamities, the consciousness of the Divine presence invigorates and enlivens them;—an interest in a heavenly blessing compensates most fully for a thousand privations, and stands in the stead of all they have abandoned. In all these things they are more than conquerors, and it is enough for them to know that He who is with them here, is the same God who will be with them hereafter in that better country "where they shall no more be smitten by day; where they shall linger no more neither thirst any more, and where no heat shall light upon them."

Such, my brethren, such is but a feint picture of those excellent characters who, under the fostering care of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, "go forth" to aid in "teaching" or christianizing "all nations." We have recorded their zeal in Africa and the East, and if we turn to the

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we shall find, that here too a missionary spirit prevails under the kind auspices of the same Society—the ever active vigilance and unwearied exertions of the amiable prelates who preside over our best interests, afford an exemplary pattern of it, too exemplary perhaps for the very near imitation of their superordinates in the ministry; but even among these a portion of it may be discovered which is not altogether worthless. They are not, it may be, subject to as many severe corporal privations as some of the missionaries just referred to, yet they have mental ordeals as difficult to pass through.

THE MISSIONARY'S TRIALS AND SUPPORT.

They experience emotions anxious and painful,

and trials hard to be borne; and while they reflect with fond uneasiness on the situation of the flocks fed within their respective folds, they have thoughts and feelings known only to themselves and that God who has called them to labour in his vineyard. St. Paul says, with a strength of expression which forcibly marks how he would have felt the lapse of any of his sons in the faith. "Now we live if ye stand fast in the Lord,"—and every faithful herald of Christ, my brethren, has sentiments of the same kind; his mind dwells incessantly on the spiritual progress and increase of those entrusted to his care; his affections are so bound up and identified with their welfare, that they may be considered as hanging on their steadfastness and piety of soul. Do they waver in their faith? He sees cause for questioning his own explicitness in setting forth the truth; he doubts his own fervency of prayer for a more abundant effusion of the spirit of grace, his own fidelity in warning, his own boldness in declaring the free invitations of the Gospel. Are they inconsistent in practice? He is inclined to attribute it to defects in his mode of "teaching" them to observe all things whatsoever Christ has commanded. Do they finally fall away? He reviews in much fear the course of his ministry, lest he should have placed himself the stumbling-block over which his brother's feet have fallen, to the dishonour of the name of Jesus, the ruin of an imperishable soul, and the injury of the cause he desired to serve. But though disappointed, he is not cast down; though perplexed, he is not dismayed; for his Lord's words are deeply engraven on his heart.—"in the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Thus, in the day of despondency as well as in that of hope; in the day of humiliation, desertion and rebuke, as well as in that of exhilaration and triumph, he finds Him to be his Comforter, the anchor of his soul both sure and steadfast.

We might here, my brethren, take a more particular review of the Society's history, its past and present proceedings; but it would be much beyond the compass of a single discourse, to recount its laudable endeavours and the blessed effects which have followed them. The general circumstances which have been mentioned relative to the wide sphere of its operations are sufficient to shew how desirous it has been of fulfilling the command in the text—to "teach all nations;"—they are sufficient also to render it a most deserving object of universal admiration; and if you properly appreciate its goodness, if you prize aright the great boon which emanates to you from its bounty, you cannot withhold your assistance in upholding and strengthening its hands. To it you are indebted, (for I think you will consider it a debt) for the introduction and continuance here of the admirable doctrines, the beautiful and impressive services of that Church which, without casting the least reflection on those who adopt a different sentiment, I truly believe approaches the nearest to the primitive and apostolic model, otherwise I should not now stand here a feeble advocate of her sacred cause. Blemishes there may be on her purity, (and what institution on earth is free from them?) but she herself if better known, would perhaps be better loved.

It is in perfect accordance with the discipline and ordinances of this church, that the Society prosecutes its charitable design of "teaching all nations;" and God forbid that it should in any measure be kept back by the cold unconcern of those to whom He has not only vouchsafed the means of grace but the power of imparting those means to others. The possibility of such a disheartening case will not, cannot, surely be contemplated either in the highly favoured nation of England, or in these her equally favoured colonies; but we will rely with hope, under the blessing of Heaven, on the strenuous cooperation of the friends and well-wishers of the Society.

Such friends, my brethren, may it always find amongst you! But in evincing your friendship for it, remember that you are evincing it for yourselves, for you are aiding in securing to these provinces that matchless system of worship which, without its generosity, you would not perhaps now enjoy, and which if the Society should fail (but Heaven avert it) would probably fail too.—Let us unite then, my Brethren, and with all others interested in its welfare unfeignedly implore the grace of the Most High to rest upon this noble Institution. Let us summon together our best energies in furtherance of its holy cause; and, well knowing how utterly fruitless and unavailing our most powerful efforts must prove, undirected by the Holy Spirit, let us fervently supplicate its constant guidance in our future undertakings. As for ourselves, the missionaries of this Society, and your servants in the Lord, we earnestly entreat your remembrance in your every devotion. We beseech you to bid us God speed from your inmost breast, not certain how long our feeble offices may be continued amongst you: but whether long or short, may they prove in the end effectual in fixing your affections there where alone true joys are to be found through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, in unity with the Father and Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honor and glory, dominion and power, henceforth and forever! Amen.

ENGLISH NAVAL AND MILITARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Fifty-seventh Anniversary Meeting of this Society was held in the Great Room of the Freemason's Tavern, on Tuesday the 9th May;—the most noble the Marquis of Cholmondeley in the chair.

The total distribution of Bibles by the Society last year, had been 10,874, making a general total of 207,912 since the formation of the institution. The funds received last year amounted to £3009 15s. 9d. and the expenditure to £3038 5s. 6d. The committee hoped, therefore, that an appeal on their part for an increased pecuniary aid, would not be disregarded.

The meeting was addressed by Admiral Hillayar, Gen. Tolley, Capt. Sir Edward Parry, Col. Hawkshaw, Capt. the Hon. Wm. Wellesley, Rev. J. Cumming, Col. Phipps, &c. The following interesting facts are taken from the Report of the addresses in the Record:—

Capt. Sir Edward Parry, R. N. said, that he had been requested by the committee, to propose the following resolution:—"That whilst this meeting feels deeply impressed that it is to Almighty God alone to give efficacy or success to the humble labour of His servants in the distribution of His holy Word, they desire to tender their respectful acknowledgments to his Grace the Vice Patron; the most noble the President, and the Vice Presidents, for the continuance of their countenance and their support to this Society; that the Treasurers and Secretaries be requested to continue in their respective offices, and that the gentlemen named in the annexed list be the Committee for the ensuing year."—It was now eight years since he (Captain Parry) had stood on the platform of that Society, and had been present at a meeting for the promotion of its objects; in the interval he had been once round the globe, and spent some years at the antipodes of London. He had met with many trials during that period, but he had been blessed with ten thousand times as many mercies. The gallant officer then reviewed his connection with those classes of men who were the peculiar objects of the Society's labors, and bore his testimony to their effects, and to the results they were likely to produce. He concluded by hoping that the exertions of those who themselves knew the value of the Bible would