

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1840.

JOHN THOROGOOD, THE MARTYR.—We should not think it necessary to employ our types again with reference to this individual, were it not that the *Christian Messenger* is again echoing the cry of oppression, and giving currency to the slanders which have issued from the Radical Press in England against the Church. The case of this shoemaker of Chelmsford has been so grossly distorted, that it becomes a duty to correct the misrepresentations that have been so industriously circulated.—The man is held up as a Martyr for conscience sake—the whole Hierarchy are represented as arrayed against an unfortunate shoemaker—keeping him in durance vile because he will not pay five shillings and six pence towards the support of a church of which his conscience disapproves;—and meetings are held, and petitions got up, and lamentations are sounding, through the Dissenting ranks, on his behalf. Now what is the true state of this deplorable case? This John Thorogood by the laws of England is required to pay a certain yearly rate towards keeping in due repair the Church fabrics of that establishment, which is maintained for the general benefit of all the inhabitants of the kingdom. He resists these laws of his country, and says he will pay no such rate, knowing that the consequence will be incarceration, with which, as a matter of course, he has been visited; and so, by his own act and choice, he accordingly lies in Chelmsford jail. He is thus an offender—a daring, contumacious offender against the laws of his country, and is getting no more than might be expected by those who set those laws at defiance. This is the marrow of the case. As to his martyrdom, we believe he finds it the best trade he ever followed in his life; so good, that he would be very sorry to leave his present quarters. It is stated in the English papers, that he has actually realized a little fortune by the presents which have been sent to him, in consequence of the agitation and false statements that have been got up regarding his treatment.—It will be remembered, that with reference to those statements, an investigation was ordered, and a report given to the House of Commons, utterly disproving them, and shewing that he was well fed, clothed, lodged, and visited.

We will not argue the merits or demerits of the law which this Thorogood has set at defiance; but just observe, that we can see no hardship whatever in its requirements. The rate is a tax upon property, and not upon individuals. It was set apart by the piety of the original proprietors of the land, for the support of God's cause, and worship. Every purchaser since, has paid so much less for his property in consequence of this tribute. And therefore, so far from any hardship in the case, that man is not honest who fails to pay it; because he does not fulfil the condition on which he holds his property. He is just as much deserving of the name of martyr, or of commiseration as a sufferer for conscience sake, as the man who would purchase an estate subject to an annual payment to another, and fraudulently withhold that payment to suit his own purposes.

But after all it may be asked, what has the Church to do with this business? If there be fault anywhere, it is not in the Church, but in the Law. And

yet these conscientious gentry do not scruple to heap all possible odium upon the Bishops and Clergy of the Church, as if church-rates were a piece of ecclesiastical tyranny, contrived and executed to oppress Dissenters.

We have said enough to show, (and those who are retailing the slanders ought to have known it) that the case is far otherwise; and if this irritating course is persevered in by our contemporary; if he thus seeks from week to week to stir up odium against the Church in the minds of his readers, we shall further enlighten them on the subject, from materials in our possession; although we would gladly be spared a discussion which is quite uncalled for in Nova Scotia, where such is our liberty, that every man may do what seemeth right in his own eyes, and pay, or not pay, to the support of Religion, as he pleases.

ANOTHER NEW CHURCH.—We hear that the frame of a Church was raised at Broad Cove in this county, on the same day with that at Chester. We wish our worthy friends in that quarter, to whom we have often gladly ministered, every success in their good work.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.—We have just received the second annual Report of this institution, presented at the Meeting in February. Extracts follow. The second contribution from Lunenburg was by some mistake not paid in, in time to appear in this Report; but it was in the hands of the Treasurer very soon after the Meeting. As no intimation was given that the names of members would be printed, the list from this Parish for 1839 was not forwarded, and very probably the case is the same with other Parishes. Here the number of subscribers has been more than trebled during the year.

From this view of the subscriptions in the town of Halifax, and of the contributions of the various Local Committees, it appears that there have been paid into the Treasurer's hands, between the dates of the last and present Reports, sums amounting to £291 16s. 3½d.; which with the balance then in his hands make up £420 15s. 7½d.; from which the deduction of the several sums voted during the year, and of those remaining uncalled for of the preceding year's appropriation, leaves the balance in his hands for present use of £94 7s. 9½d.

The Committee regret that a great object, which they believe was near the hearts of many of the Subscribers to this Society,—that of providing a Missionary for the destitute settlements of the Province,—has not, for several reasons, been carried out: but they feel that there is a greater cause for regret that the efforts of their Diocesan in England to obtain Missionaries for the supply of the spiritual wants of his Diocese generally, appear to have been unavailing. Meanwhile they trust that something has been contributed by them to the glory of God, and the benefit of their fellow-creatures' souls, by the aid that has been extended to the erection of Churches and Schools; by the partial provision of salaries for Schoolmasters and lay-readers; and by the increased facilities which they have afforded for the circulation of Bibles and religious books.—They feel encouraged to hope for continued and increased usefulness from the operations of this Society, and particularly after the expected return of the Rt. Revd. President to the guidance and direction of their measures; and earnestly call upon all who love the Church of their forefathers to aid the efforts, however humble, which this Society is enabled to put forth for the promotion of true religion, the benefit of immortal souls, and the increase of the Redeemer's kingdom. They would remember, that, without His blessing and the influence of His Spirit, the most strenuous efforts of man will be in vain; but they trust, keeping in view their dependence upon Him, and preserving a single eye to His glory, "their labour will not be in vain in the Lord."

At a Meeting of the General Committee, holden at the residence of the Secretary, on Thursday, 27th day of February, 1840,—

PRESENT:

The Ven. Archdeacon WILLIS, D.D. &c. &c. &c. The following Resolutions, proposed by the Hon. the CHIEF JUSTICE, seconded by Revd. A. D. PARKER, were unanimously agreed to.

Resolved,—That, in order to cement more firmly the connexion of all the Members of the Church with this Society, this Committee recommend, that the heads of families do impress upon the members of their respective families of both sexes and of all ages, the importance of contributing their aid, however small, to this Society, out of such funds as may be under their controul. Such a measure, they trust, will not only increase the number of the Members of this Society, but also impress upon the wives and children of Churchmen, the propriety of connecting themselves, in connexion with their husbands and fathers, to diffuse the Word of God among their fellow-creatures.

Resolved,—That in order to give publicity to the foregoing Resolution, the Secretary be directed to publish it as an appendix to the Report, which was made last evening to the General Meeting of the Society.

ROBERT WILLIS, D. D.
Chairman.

CHESTER.—We have been favoured with the following notice of the laying of the corner stone of the new church at that place—a ceremony which we witnessed with much pleasure; and we sincerely hope that the work thus happily begun, may, by the Divine blessing, be brought to a prosperous conclusion. We understand that the Baptist Meeting House has been kindly offered for Divine service, until the Church shall be ready.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

The corner stone of the new Church which has for some time been in the course of erection in the town of Chester, was laid on Thursday afternoon last the 25th of June, with solemn and impressive religious exercises. The congregation met in and around the neat and spacious school-house, which though crowded to excess, would afford accommodation only to about half the number assembled. Evening Prayer was read by the Rev. Mr. Disbrow—the lessons by the Rev. J. C. Cochran, Rector of Lunenburg. Proper Psalms 84, 122, 132—first lesson, Haggai, 1st and 2d chap.—second lesson, 1 Cor. 3d chap. The Psalm, *Cantate Domino*, was chanted by the choir, after the 1st lesson, in a correct and solemn manner, which would have reflected credit upon more experienced singers. A procession was then formed, and moved to the foundation of the new Building (which is the site of the old) in the following order—Sunday scholars with their teachers—choir of singers—wardens and vestrymen—clergy—parishioners. A large concourse of persons of all denominations being collected about the place, a part of the 100th psalm was sung: after which an appropriate selection of psalms (selected for the occasion, from the 48th, 90th, 118th, 127th, and others, was read by the Rector, with alternate responses by the congregation. A few verses of the 48th psalm having been sung, a copper box lined with lead and carefully soldered, was then deposited in a cavity of the solid rock prepared for the purpose, containing No. 11, vol. 4, of the *Colonial Churchman*, with an engraving of the old church—seventeen silver coins of different nations and reigns; of England, those of George 2d, 3d and 4th, William 4th, and Victoria; several of France and of Spain; some American, Dutch and other coins;—and a paper with the following inscription:—

In the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY GHOST—Amen.

This corner stone of

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH was laid on the 25th of June, A. D. 1840, and in the 4th year of the reign

of Her Most Excellent Majesty VICTORIA,

Queen of Great Britain and Ireland:

By the Rev. JAMES SHREVE, D. D. Rector.

The Right Rev. and Hon. JOHN INGLIS, D. D. being the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

James S. Wells, Esq. and William Marvin, being Wardens when the resolution passed to erect the Church, January 6th, 1836: