

Missionary Intelligence.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

79, Pall Mall, Sept. 8, 1853.

A letter has been just received from the Bishop of Newfoundland, giving a brief account of his recent voyage to Labrador. The following extracts will be found interesting:—

"Twillingate, August 3rd, 1853.

"I left St. John's in the Church ship on Wednesday, the 15th of June, accompanied by three clergymen (1) Mr. Hutchinson, who has left his pleasant and peaceful village at the foot of Malvern Hills, to fill Mr. Disney's place on the Labrador, for at least two years; (2) Mr. Walsh, the Society's Missionary at Island Cove, Bryant Cove, Bishop's Cove, and Spaniard's Bay, who is invalided, and directed by the physicians to have rest for body and mind, with change of scene, &c., and (3) Mr. Freer, who was ordained at St. John's, on Trinity Sunday.

"We reached Forteau on the evening of Sunday the 19th June, and found Mr. Gifford at home, and anxiously expecting us. He, with his wife and sister passed the winter on the Labrador. All agreed that the climate of Labrador is more favourable to health and strength than that of England; and I have seen other evidence of the fact in the case of females, who, having been delicate and delicately brought up at home, are now on the Labrador, active and hardy, making no account of ice and snow, and a thermometer 15 or 20 below zero.

"We found the Labrador crop still remaining in patches on the ground in our first walk, on the 20th of June.

"On the 21st I took Mr. Gifford on board the Church ship, and we visited together, and held services in all the principal settlements in his mission, from St. John's island, on the Newfoundland shore, to the southward, to Red Bay on the Labrador, which is at the northern extremity. You are aware that his mission extends on each side of Belle Isle Straits about seventy miles.

"Perhaps the first confirmation ever given on the Labrador, was at Forteau, on Sunday, June 26th, in the room (intended for a school,) now fitted up and used as their Church. I confirmed also on the opposite side at Anchor Point, in Newfoundland, in the upper loft, in a store, and at Red Bay, on board the Church ship. I also consecrated two grave yards, one at Red Bay and the other at Forteau, and should have consecrated a third, but for a common Labrador difficulty, the want of nails, which prevented the erection of the fence, the other materials for which were provided. I also laid the foundation or first block of the Church, at Forteau; and carried in the Church ship a deck load of lumber for a church in progress at Red Bay: and we have I hope and believe, materials and means for completing both these churches, with the assistance of the people. I was with Mr. Gifford just a fortnight, and during the time we celebrated public service at ten or eleven different settlements, sometimes on board the Church ship, sometimes in stores, sometimes in private houses, as best suited the convenience of the people, and I preached or addressed the congregation, little or large, on every occasion. We administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper thrice, and admitted several children into the Church.

"Mr. Gifford's chief difficulty, or, I might say, difficulties for they are manifold, may easily be supposed to lie in the extent of his mission, on either side of the notorious straits, nearly half the year full of ice, and the scattered way in which his people live—four families at one settlement, three at another, and two at a third, and these perhaps ten or twenty miles apart. As when he visits he must remain from home all night, or many nights, he is obliged to lodge at some fisherman's house, often at great inconvenience to himself and people. To remedy that evil he purchased through the liberality of his friends in England, a large boat, in which he could sleep, and could receive persons who wished to consult him in private, and he found it a great comfort and help in his pastoral visits; but the expense and risk of management are so great that he has been obliged to abandon it. Schools at the different little settlements are out of the question, and of course there may be many sick and dying of whom he cannot even receive information, much less visit them. What he desires, therefore, as most profitable to the mission generally, is to establish a school, at which children may be lodged and boarded, as well as instructed at Forteau, and a hospital for the sick and aged. But for preparing these establishments, and, I fear, maintaining them, we shall require some assistance. Al-

ready, I am assured, a great improvement is apparent in the habits and manners of the people in his mission, through God's blessing upon Mr. Gifford's faithful ministry. And he is greatly beloved, and deserves, as he desires, your alms and your prayers.

"On Monday, July 4th, the Church ship sailed from Red Bay to Battle Harbour, sixty miles. I had the satisfaction of finding the parsonage-house well and substantially built, and ready for Mr. Hutchinson's occupation. We remained one day at Battle Harbour, to introduce Mr. Hutchinson to the people, and had two services on board the Church ship. On Wednesday we proceeded to St. Francis Island, with the windows on board, and were fortunate enough to have a quick passage; and by putting the sailors to assist the carpenter, we got nearly all the windows inserted and glazed before the Sunday.

"On Sunday, July the 11th, the first church on the Labrador was consecrated by me, by the name of St. John the Baptist. The Church has been built under great disadvantages, in consequence of the little attention which Mr. Disney could give to the work; but it is abundantly sufficient for the congregation, which, except in summer, will be very small.

"I was assisted on the occasion by the Rev. Messrs. Hutchinson, Walsh, and Freer. I preached in the morning, and Mr. Hutchinson in the afternoon. Both the sacraments were administered,—the Lord's Supper in the morning, and Baptism in the afternoon. The congregations consisted chiefly of the fishermen (summer visitors) from Newfoundland; but all the Protestant residents in the neighbourhood attended, and among them some Indians both of Esquimaux and Montaigneur race.

"On the following day we sailed to Venison Islands, where, on Tuesday, July 12th, we had two crowded congregations, on board the Church ship. After the morning service I consecrated a grave-yard. Here, also, many of the residents are of Indian descent.

"Wednesday we reached the next harbour, at which many of our people reside, in time enough to hold service in the afternoon.

"On Thursday we proceeded to Seal Islands, which is the furthest settlement to the north of this Mission. Most of the men were absent on our arrival, having gone further north in pursuit of fish; on that account, and because the number of people fishing in the neighbourhood is considerable, I determined to remain for the Sunday. We had service in the upper room of a store, as I could not have accommodated half the congregation on board of the Church ship. In the afternoon, nearly two hundred were assembled. We found at Venison Islands that seventy crowded the cabin inconveniently.

"After some deliberation, I abandoned the idea of proceeding further north, and that for many reasons, but chiefly because I have so much work prepared and waiting for me on the coast of Newfoundland; and because in consequence of there being no Missionary, there was no special service of duty for the Bishop in Sandwich Bay; and I was given to understand, that at this season the people are scattered all about at the salmon brooks, and could not be gathered together before August.

"I, therefore, very sorrowfully and reluctantly gave orders to return to Battle Harbour, which we reached on Tuesday morning, July the 19th. We remained there two days, and landed Mr. Hutchinson's goods, which we found at St. Francis Harbour, and made all necessary arrangements for his occupation of the house. We had, as before, service on board the ship, and visited many sick people. We had a very pleasant evening, and did not separate without asking a blessing upon our brother and his future labours. We slept in his house the following night.

"On the next morning we all started again to the southern part of his Mission; and after spending one evening at the Camp Islands, arrived on Friday, July 22nd, at Chateau Bay, the southern extremity of the Mission, about seventy-five miles from the Seal Islands. This was the first disagreeable day since we left St. John's. It blew very heavily, and very foggy withal, and we narrowly escaped running against a large fragment of an iceberg. There were several large ones in the neighbourhood of this harbour. On the day after our arrival, an enormous one foundered, with a noise like loud artillery.

"Our Sunday services were on board the Church ship; and on Monday—St. James' day—expecting to part from Hutchinson, and leave him alone (yet not alone), I celebrated the Lord's Supper, and had a full service both in the morning and afternoon. It, however, blew a gale of wind, with fog, all this day and the following; and it was not till the mid-

dle of Wednesday, July the 27th, that the Church ship could escape, which we did without a moment's delay, and Mr. Hutchinson's missionary work and solitude were at length realized. He was fully prepared, at least in will and spirit; and I only need desire for him and his people, that he had more knowledge of managing a boat, and driving a sleigh, and taking care of himself.

COLONIAL BISHOPS' FUND.—The Council appointed to manage this fund have issued the following detailed statement of their operations:—

"The fund was commenced in January, 1841, and during that and the following year the amount received was £46,000. In 1841, the first bishopric erected was that of New Zealand, whose income of £600 was provided for by an annual payment from the Church Missionary Society to this fund. In 1842, the sees of Gibraltar and Tasmania were erected. To Gibraltar was assigned a stipend of £1,200 per annum. For this see a special fund was raised of £3,100. To Tasmania was originally assigned a stipend of £400, which was superseded in 1846 by an investment of £5,000 in land in the colony. In 1843 and 1844, the fund was aided by pastoral letters issued by the bishops of London and Salisbury producing £8,102, and £1,107. In 1845, the diocese of Fredericton was erected, and a stipend assigned of £1,000 per annum. Towards this there was raised £2,796. At the end of 1846 the fund amounted to upwards of £72,000, aided by grants from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

"In 1847 four new sees were erected—namely, Melbourne, Newcastle, and Adelaide, in Australia, and Cape Town. Those of Adelaide and Cape Town were specially endowed with a sum of £35,000, the gift of Miss Burdett Coutts. To each of these two sees was assigned a stipend of £800 per annum. An investment of £10,240 for Adelaide, in part of its endowment, has been made, in the colony; and for Cape Town, of £8,211 in part. To Melbourne and Newcastle were assigned stipends of £333 per annum each. In 1849 the sees of Rupert's Land and Victoria (Hong Kong) were erected. Rupert's Land was endowed by the Hudson's Bay Company and by private donations which form no part of the present fund. To the see of Victoria was assigned a stipend of £1,000 per annum which was specially aided by a donation of £11,000, from 'A Brother and Sister,' of which £2,000 was to be applied in aid of the erection of a college at Hong Kong (the bishop being the warden,) £2,000 by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, £6,700 the proceeds of a pastoral letter issued by the bishop of London in 1843, and £2,248 in donations. In 1850 the then existing see of Quebec was divided into the two dioceses of Quebec and Montreal; and to the new diocese of Montreal was assigned a stipend of £800 per annum, for which £6,830 was specially raised, including £2,000 given by the University of Oxford. An endowment in part has been made by an investment of £10,000 in Canadian securities. In 1852 the Sierra Leone was erected for which 11,347 was specially raised, namely, 6,629, by the Church Missionary Society, 2,000 given by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and 2,718, received by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel—yielding annually about £500.

"The total amount of the fund raised (after payment of the annual stipends) during the twelve years 1841 to 1853, is 173,774, of which 3,365, has been expended in the necessary expenses attendant on the erection of twelve new sees, 35,451, invested in the respective colonies for endowments, 135,496, invested in securities in England, and 1,644, paid for the general expenses of the fund during that period. The fund now consists of the above investments in securities in England, which with annual subscriptions, amounting to 400l. or 600l. for New Zealand, yields an income of 6,600l., and a cash balance of 2,038l. The income is chargeable with annual stipends amounting to 6,000l., but it is expected that in the course of three or four years the rate of interest will be so much reduced that the fund will not meet the annual charge upon it.—Seven other sees are proposed to be erected as soon as sufficient funds have been obtained, to aid which the following amounts have been promised:—Natal (to be erected as soon as 5,000l. more are subscribed,) Graham's Town, 2,100l.; Lyttelton, (New Zealand,) 1,000l.; Mauritius 5,000l.; Borneo 2,000, Canada East, third bishopric, 2,000l.; Perth (Western Australia,) 3,000l.

Seventeen converts from Romanism were publicly received by the Dean of Tuam on Sunday week.—*Church & State Gazette Sept 9.*