

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JAN. 3, 1857.

THE CHURCH TIMES.

proceedings from last year, and showing that the withdrawal of aid from England to the Church in this Diocese, rendered our exertions in behalf of the Diocesan Church Society more necessary than ever, he concluded with the following sentence, as far as I can recollect:—"When I look on the last nine months, it appears a blank. God had cut me off from the external work of the Sanctuary, and yet a world of internal thought and feeling remained. I saw more clearly the value of immortal souls, and I thought if ever God restored me again to labour in his service, my only desire will be to bring you to Him who came down from Heaven to die for your sins, a trust in whom can alone form either our comfort or safety in the hour of death. It has pleased Him to hear my prayer; I am again among you, I trust I will be able to give you one service each Lord's day. I rejoice that means have been furnished by you for an Assistant Missionary. I hope one will be sent among us soon; but whatever may happen, one thing I have learned during my protracted illness, and that one thing I would desire to teach you, to look up to the Saviour of men and say, "not my will but thine be done." He concluded by regretting the unavoidable absence of the Revd. Mr. Godfrey, and moved the Resolution which was intended for him:

Resolved—That whereas the aid from England hitherto so liberally granted to the Church in this Colony is being withdrawn, and the Diocesan Church Society is the only institution formed in the Diocese for supporting the temporal wants of our Missionaries, therefore there is now an urgent motive for endeavouring to increase its funds, in order that when vacancies occur, the Society may have the means of filling them up.

Which being seconded by Chas. Budd, Esq., was adopted by the meeting.

James A. Pennison, Esq. then read the following Resolution:

Resolved—That peace having been restored to our Empire, we ought to express our thankfulness to God (in acknowledgment of the blessings,) by contributing of our means to his cause.

He then said—That when the Resolution was first handed to him, the idea presented itself which might perhaps occur to many in the meeting—what possible connection can we in this remote colony have with the restoration of peace to Great Britain. But in thinking it over he saw how much we were interested in it; for if the war had continued it was most likely the troops who were placed here for our defence and paid by Great Britain, would have been withdrawn, we should then have been obliged to have organized our own forces at a very great expense; more than three times the income of this Society being required to defray the expense of one regiment. This however not having been required of us, it seemed but a fitting memorial of our thankfulness to God for having restored peace to our land, to give as largely as possible of our means to this Society. This will be a more fitting monument to his praise than tablets of marble erected in memory of our departed fellow countrymen; for while they are at rest, and we can only regret their departure, the word of truth will be sounded forth by the Missionaries of this Society to the saving of the immortal souls of thousands. That we owe a great debt of gratitude to the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." That for 100 years the Province had enjoyed its bounty, that now more remote and destitute fields required their aid, and they were about to withdraw it from us. That probably about one fifth of the population of this Province were Episcopalians, but that they had never been called upon until within the last 20 years to do comparatively anything for themselves; that the time had now arrived when they were to come forward and support their own Clergymen, and that it was incumbent on those towns where the population was large, to contribute to this Society for the benefit of more remote districts where the inhabitants were few, but where of course any gentleman who was sent among them would require the same sum for his support.

Mr. Wade said—He had been unexpectedly called upon to second this resolution which he had not previously seen, but a few thoughts had suggested themselves to him on this occasion; that it had been said that much had not been hitherto done for the Church, but that this was not entirely correct, for that a great deal had already been contributed, and that more would yet be raised; that he had been connected with the Church for many years, and held an office in it, and that he had done what he could for its prosperity; that if all connected with the Church, both clergy and laity, were actuated by right feelings, and were united together, the Church, instead of losing its temporal prosperity would finally triumph.

(Continued next week.)

ANOTHER year has dawned upon *The Church Times*, which has now commenced its Tenth Volume. It will become us, therefore, at this season, to acknowledge the sustaining mercies of the past, while we may venture to hope for the future, that we shall have less trouble to encounter, and a more zealous support to encourage us to persevere. Very many have been the difficulties of our position while we have endeavored to preserve our distinctiveness as a Paper combining Evangelical Truth and Apostolic Order, and to preserve our usefulness free from party bias, or uncharitableness towards those against whom its manifestation might have been deemed quite excusable. That we have been able at all to do this, we ascribe not to any perfectness in our own nature, which left to itself would upon several occasions have been very perverse, but to the controlling power of Him who has used us as His instrument for His own wise purposes, and we trust in some degree to help forward the advancement of His Church and to promote His glory.

It was never intended that the *Church Times* should become a controversial journal, and this, altho' some may think otherwise, we deem to be its greatest perfection. Its highest aim has been to communicate reliable information upon all subjects interesting to the Church, from the sources at our disposal, and wherever it has become necessary to depart in degree from this chief feature of its institution, it will we think be found, that the course has been warranted by grave considerations, which did not originate with our management, or the agitation of questions of importance, upon which it behoved us to express a decided opinion. Among ourselves the principal avont of this nature, has been the establishment of the Diocesan Assembly, which by the wisdom of our excellent Bishop, under the guidance of the Almighty, has been so far perfected, as to have become an acknowledged fact. It will ever afford us great satisfaction, that the name of our Paper has been identified with the advocacy of the Synodical action of the Church in Nova Scotia, the pivot, we sincerely believe, upon which will turn her future advancement and prosperity. A good deal of discussion has grown out of the introduction of this measure, inasmuch as conflicting opinions had to be ventilated; and if in their collision a little of the spirit of bitterness has been excited, it is no more than might have been expected from so important a cause. All such feelings we hope have now given place to others more becoming our Christian brotherhood. In the meeting of the Diocesan Assembly of last October, there was presented to Churchmen, not only of this but surrounding Dioceses, an example of unity of feeling upon this subject; and that it may grow and prosper, under the Divine guidance, ought now to be the wish and the prayerful hope of every member of our communion.

In accordance with our intention not to engage in controversial matters, we have been careful to avoid committing ourselves to party views on any of the vexatious questions which in the Mother Country have agitated the Church. Wherever we have found description which would give our readers a fair view of the facts, and their probable tendencies, we have used them, and left them to speak for themselves. Although this has not been easy at all times, with the scanty material at our command, and heated imaginations may deem that we have sometimes come short in this respect, we know that we have striven to be impartial throughout, and can only say, that we deem our course much more consonant to Gospel precept, than that which would commit us to one side, on subjects upon which the opinions of almost every two persons will be found to vary. We do not pretend to settle questions of doctrine, and our own personal opinions may be strong upon many things, while in the performance of our Editorial duty, we may express no opinion at all, or at least no guiding opinion.

We would further remark, at the risk of being thought egotistical, that we are fully convinced, that during the past year we have given good value for the subscription rate of the Paper, to every one of its subscribers. To those who have acknowledged this in a way most grateful to us, by paying for that period, and in advance for the present year, we tender our thanks. We may say further, that we have been long looking for such an increase to our List, as will show that there is life in the Churchmen of Nova Scotia, such as there is in the Baptists, who uphold the *Christian Messenger* with over 2000

subscribers—or the Wesleyans, who in this and the neighbouring Province, glean from the connection, for the support of their paper, a handsome List of 2500 names. These bodies know that the periodicals are important auxiliaries in all their denominational operations and efforts. Surely the Churchmen of this Diocese ought to do as much as either of them; and the recommendation of their Bishop ought to be sufficient guarantee that their paper will never be perverted to objects unworthy of them, or inimical to their truest interests. If we had 2000 subscribers it would be our first object to engage a Clerical Editor, at a salary that would induce him to make the interest of the Paper his chief concern, and we would then enlarge it, so that it should have no rival in dimensions in any Provincial periodical. But this is rather a hopeful digression, and we reluctantly turn to the reality of our position. It remains to state that there is a large amount due us upon even the small subscription list which in comparison with other religious bodies, we possess, and that we really want all the money that is owing for the paper—want it to pay for the material which we have consumed during the past year—and to provide a stock of the same for a part of the present—and we hope and feel assured that it will require on our part no further urging to induce the payment of all arrears of whatever standing. The nearest Clergyman will we dare say undertake to forward them—and the sooner our subscribers attend to this duty, all the more shall we be impressed with the satisfactory performance of their obligations.

In conclusion, we wish our readers, one and all, "A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

THE FIRE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

THE City on New Year's Day, lulled into security, and engaged in the festivities of that happy season—many of its inhabitants taking their pleasure at a distance of miles from home—others paying the accustomed visits to friends—and every dwelling as open to strangers as the hearts of its inmates—was startled from its pleasurable sensations, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, by an alarm of Fire. We were not more than a quarter of an hour in reaching the scene of disaster, where the sad spectacle presented itself of flames bursting forth from buildings on both sides of Hollis street. The fire had originated in the property owned by Nicholas Vass, Esq., and occupied above as an haberdashery store by Mr. Donohoe, and below as a Restaurant by Mr. Stewart. The cause of the fire is still a mystery. The building whence it broke forth had at its east and southern side a stone wall—and the intense heat confined without any chance of escape except north and west, reflected across the streets in those directions with overpowering intensity, catching St. Matthew's Church (Church of Scotland) on the west side, and Harrington's grocery store on the north. St. Matthew 90 years old, and dry as dust, burnt like tinder, and was soon enveloped in flames, which burst through its windows, and wreathed and revelled around its steeple to the topmost height, which finally succumbed to the devouring element, and fell with a tremendous crash in the midst of the burning edifice. Some articles of church furniture and the books of the Church are all that were saved. In the cellar underneath, rented by Mr. Harrington, was a large stock of groceries and combustible material, which was partly saved, and partly shared the fate of the Church. From this point, notwithstanding the great exertions of the congregated thousands, the flames progressed on both sides of Hollis street, south, consuming on the lower side the premises occupied by Messrs. Kirk & Co. as a steam press office, the butcher's shop adjoining, the tailoring establishment of Messrs. Melroth & Farquharson, several lawyers' offices next, the grocery and tailoring establishment of Mr. John Melreith, and were then stayed by partially pulling down the premises adjoining the office of H. Pryor, Esq. On the western side the burning Church caught the contiguous buildings up the hill, sweeping round the block and destroying the office of James Stewart, Esq., and the Probate office, the shop next, and the grocery and paint shop belonging to Mrs. Studley, the dispensary, a house owned by Rev. Mr. Townsend, until the fire reached the *Christian Messenger* office, lately removed to this block, which was pulled down, and thus a stop was in this quarter made to its ravages. Along Hollis street, west side, the fire from the church communicated to the adjacent houses, which were speedily wrapped in flames, and all consumed, until its progress was interrupted by the brick building owned by Mr. Wm. Langley, and occupied as a drug store and a dwelling. The brick and stone walls bounding the wooden buildings proved an effectual impediment to the spread of the conflagration, preventing it from embracing the houses east of the building where the fire originated, which were, however, in great danger, and saving the remainder of the block, at the corner of which stood St. Matthew's Church. We have said nothing yet of Harrington's Grocery store, which we mentioned as having caught fire on the opposite side of the street north of Vass's property. Happily for that building and that block, the wind veered a little east of north, and the former escaped with a partial damage although the heat was so great that it was accomplished with much difficulty. The proprietors of several of the neighbouring stores and dwellings deemed it advisable to remove their effects. Water proved very scarce during the extremity of the fire, or perhaps some of the houses might have been saved by the desperate exertions of the firemen, aided by the military whose presence and efforts, and example upon the occasion cannot be too thankfully remembered.