

The Bishop of Fredericton said:—

"I return my warmest and most grateful thanks to the society for their liberal and continued assistance to my diocese. The members of the Board will be pleased to hear, that the gifts bestowed on us, both in money and books, are duly valued. The assistance lately granted to the church in Douglas at the Cross Roads was most timely, and it was given to those who had most zealously exerted themselves, and had made themselves responsible for the contract to the builder. The church was consecrated shortly before I left Fredericton, and is a credit to all parties concerned.

"I have also much pleasure in assuring the Board, that their books are doubly valuable, because of the difficulty and expense of procuring good works, and as a continual stream of objectionable works pours in upon us from the United States. The poor settlers who live at a distance from towns have no means of procuring any books whatever; I have visited such at a distance of 220 miles from Fredericton, and to such a good book is an invaluable treasure.

"Nor are the society's books given to the richer parishes, but are only bestowed on those who need them, and it is my endeavour to bestow them in such a manner as to call forth the contributions of the people themselves.

"I have great pleasure also in supporting the grant of books to Mr Dowling, the energetic missionary in Douglas. In that laborious mission the books will be well bestowed. Mr Dowling is from St. Augustine's, which has sent us several most useful and active labourers."

The Bishop of Nova Scotia forwarded a petition of the Rev J. Ambrose, for aid towards a new church at St. Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia. Owing to the series of unsuccessful seasons, and in consequence of the American war, the fishermen are in a very depressed condition. The Rev. John Stannage in former days raised £50 currency for the restoration of the church, but upon examination it was found that it would be necessary entirely to rebuild it: and this £50 currency was placed in the bank as a nucleus of a fund for the rebuilding. The present rector adds to this £45 currency, and the people have given the frame of the new building; but their poverty prevented the completion of the church. £25 were granted towards this object.

The Bishop of Nova Scotia acknowledged the benefits conferred upon his diocese by the grants of the society.

The Rev. John Stannage applied, with the sanction of the Bishop of Toronto, for aid towards the enlargement of the church at Welland, and towards the completion of the church now being erected at Fonthill, in the diocese of Toronto. It appeared that the people were poor and scattered; but they were doing all they could, and had raised £160. It was agreed to grant £20 and £25 respectively for these two churches.

A letter was received from the Ven. Archdeacon Lower, of St. John's, Newfoundland, forwarding and recommending (in the absence of the Bishop of Newfoundland, who was on visitation in Bermuda) the application of the Rev. Benjamin Fleet, for a supply of religious books and tracts for use in his mission, inhabited altogether by fisherman. Mr. Fleet said that day by day, in his visits round about, he was asked for the loan or gift of books and tracts. Five pounds' worth was granted on this application.

Read a letter from the Rev. Thomas Farrar, thanking the Society for the grant of service books made to his church at Skeldon, Berbice, British Guiana; as also for the £30 granted last year towards the building.

Bishop Chapman forwarded and recommended

the application of the Rev. J. Wise, Commissary for the diocese of Colombo, for a grant of £100 for the erection of a building for the permanent accommodation of the Industrial School. It was stated that this school was instituted in 1864, and had been remarkably successful; an income having been realized for the last two or three years from the industry of the boys, sufficient to clothe and educate from 25 to 30 destitute or orphan children. If the society would grant £100 for this purpose, Mr. Wise was confident that he should be able sufficiently to effect the good object from local contributions. The Bishop had a strong conviction of the permanent usefulness of such institutions in the East, separating the children entirely from the heathen practices around them.

It was agreed to grant the £100, to be paid when the whole sum necessary shall have been collected.

In a subsequent letter, the Bishop stated that he had received an interesting letter from the Rev. J. Bamforth, missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in the South of Ceylon, mentioning the great desire of the native Singhalese for education, in the whole of that populous district. Mr. Bamforth had received from a large village (Wallaway), twelve miles distant from his station, a spontaneous offer to build themselves two schools, for boys and girls, if he would provide them with a master and mistress, and take on himself the superintendance of the work. The Bishop, feeling it to be above all things desirable to foster this inquiring spirit among the Singhalese, and especially in this part of Ceylon, which is not only very populous, but is, for missionary work, almost unbroken ground, had applied to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to supply the required master and mistress, and now requested the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge to meet this effort of the Singhalese natives in building the two schools, by a grant of £10 to each, for the supply of school materials. The Board granted £10 towards each of these schools.

The next communication laid before the Board was one from the Rev. J. Bamforth himself, as Superintendent of the Buona Vista Native Female Orphan Asylum, Point de Galle, Ceylon, forwarding a Report of that Institution for 1861. Mr. Bamforth thanked the Society for the grant made in aid of his schools; and reported that he had now six schools at work—three for boys and three for girls—in various villages of his populous district, and that there were upwards of 200 children under Christian instruction. Two-thirds of these children were still professed Buddhists, but neither they nor their parents objected to any of the teaching imparted to them. Three pupils—two of them thirteen years of age, and the other fifteen—had recently expressed their desire to be baptized; and as their parents had given consent, and promised that they should be allowed to exercise their Christian profession without hindrance from heathen relatives, Mr. Bamforth hoped to baptize them as adults, after due preparation.

Read a letter from the Bishop of Calcutta, dated Palnce, Calcutta, March 21st, 1862, thanking the society for the various grants lately made to him.

The Bishop gave an account of the proceedings of his recent visitation; in the course of which he consecrated churches at Thyet Myo, Rangoon, (for the cantonments), and Singapore; and cemeteries at Akvab, Moulmein, the Andamans and Malacca. He also laid the first stone of a new church at Rangoon, and confirmed at every place he visited except the Andamans and Kyouk P'hyo, "a lovely little spot" upon the coast.

The Bishop said that his impressions of the moral and religious conditions of the Europeans in the districts visited were favourable; and there appeared to be a due supply of the means of grace, except at Akvab and the Andamans, for which he hoped that something would soon be done. At Singapore, where much had been done by the chaplain and people, with no external help, among the Tamils and Chinese, the Bishop confirmed about twenty of these two nations; and he reported favourably of the school for Chinese girls, under the charge of Miss Cooke, containing about 40, all christians.

The Rev. Dr. Kay, writing from Bishop's College, Calcutta, March 22nd, 1862, as Provincial Secretary of the Vernacular Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, forwarded the minutes of the first meeting of that committee in Calcutta. A revision of the Bengali Psalter had been made up to about the 90th psalm. He sent also copies of the new edition of "The course of Divine Revelation," and "Dialogues on the Hindu Philosophy," by Rev. K. M. Banerjee, and of the sheet of Morning and Evening Prayers, in Bengali, 2,000 copies of which had been printed with a view to their being posted on the walls of rooms.

A letter was received from the Rev. S. B. Burrell, missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, Cawnpore, soliciting a grant of English service books for the European congregation, books for a mission library, books for the Orphanage, and books on sale, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Hill, who will purchase other books with the proceeds of sales. Cawnpore, it was said, is now a large and important Christian settlement, possessing a large railway station. During the late famine, the Orphanage was rebuilt, and there are now about 70 boys and girls. Christ Church had been made over to the society, and it was a part of the mission duty to hold one service for the English residents in the civil lines, every Sunday. The mission staff was increased. There were three clergymen, and one candidate for Holy Orders; and there are some English speaking native Christians, to whom English books had become the chief means of education and pleasure. The society's Scripture prints, with Hindi and Urdu explanations, were decorating the walls of both the heathen and the Christian schools.

The Board agreed to grant the service books applied for, and five pounds' worth of books each to the mission library, the Orphanage, and for sale by Mr. Hill.

Several diglot integral portions of the Book of Common Prayer, in the form of tracts, and a number of tracts in foreign languages, having been laid on the table, it was agreed that these publications, which had recently been prepared by the society, be placed at the disposal of the Secretaries for distribution among foreigners visiting London, through such channels, and by means of such agency as might, from time to time, present themselves, and appear to them suitably available for the purpose:—

And also, that such supplies as might be required of the diglot portions of the Prayer-Book, be placed at the disposal of the Bishop of London's Special Service Committee, for use in churches and chapels where foreigners may be expected to attend.

Several other grants of books were made; among them one to the Bishop of Colombia, for exiles and settlers in the colony; to the value of £50; and several other letters of acknowledgment were laid before the meeting.