

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1839.

NEW CHURCH.—We omitted in our last to notice the raising of a new church at Upper Lahave in this parish, near Mr. Charles Rudolf's, who has been very active and zealous in promoting the good work. The frame was raised on Monday the 8th instant, under cheering circumstances. The day was rarely fine—the sun favouring us with his brightest rays—and the assembly appeared earnest and hearty in the undertaking. Remembering that, "Except the Lord build the house their labour is but lost that build it," the pillars of this humble fabric designed for His service, were not raised without prayer to Him to prosper the handy work of his servants. With heads uncovered, and it is hoped with hearts as well as voices raised on high, the 100th psalm was sung; after which the Rector of the parish offered up appropriate prayers, and the work then proceeded. May the blessing of God attend its farther progress, and bring it to a happy conclusion, rendering this house indeed the "gate of heaven" to those that shall there worship the Lord in all time to come.

The situation chosen is pleasant, near the margin of the beautiful river Lahave; and it is central likewise for the accommodation of a large and rapidly increasing population. This will make the seventh Episcopal Church within this County, and we hear of two or three others in contemplation.

A WORD IN SEASON.—We cordially recommend to our readers the following remarks from our contemporary "the Church," on the duty of churchmen at the present time to bend all their energies to the support of their own institutions. The spurious "liberality" of the day leads too many into the practical infidelity of neglecting to provide for their own house, while they are opening their purses freely at the importunate, but not very modest or reasonable, call of strangers,—who are at bottom enemies of their Church, and would never think of contributing a farthing to objects dear to Episcopals. The time has come for the members of the Church in this Province to be cajoled no longer, but to remember, first of all, the wants of thousands in their own communion who need their aid. The Church Society claims the effective support of every churchman, and has a right to be the almoner of his religious charities. In its varied and excellent objects he may find as wide a range for his benevolence as he can desire—from the aiding of the little Sunday School or rising Church in the retired stations of our land, to the sending of the Gospel missionary to

— India's coral strand,
Or where Afric's sunny fountains
Roll down their golden sand.

So that whatever might have been his plea before, the churchman now has no reason to go beyond the bounds of his own Church for the channel of his offerings in the cause of Religion.

"Our own Church demands all that we can spare from our worldly substance; and even if a pious munificence, such as it would be contrary to experience to hope for, were really exercised, there would, after all be waste places in Canada destitute of the regular ministrations of our communion. We are, therefore, called upon to be just before we are generous; and ere we go abroad, as it were, and unite with separatists on any common ground, it becomes us to take heed that the wants of our own family at home be adequately supplied. Some most estimable and conscientious Churchmen, we are aware, are members of religious societies which have no connexion whatever with the Established Church; and with such we would not venture to expostulate for a moment, if, in our own societies, they could not attain the same objects for which they unite with parties who are, in general, hostile to our Episcopacy and our Ritual, and who never contribute a farthing where our Church is solely interested. 'Come out from among them,' we honestly and fear-

lessly say:—'Assist not in giving influence to individuals, who use it to the destruction of those sacred institutions which you are pledged to uphold; take not from the children that bread which they crave, in order to bestow it upon strangers; interfere with no man's religious liberty or rights of conscience, but faithfully support your own Church, before you proffer aid to those who are perchance plotting its destruction.'

"These observations may provoke an outcry that we are bigoted, exclusive and intolerant; but such unfounded censure we utterly disregard. From interested parties we may anticipate the accusation; from honest and conscientious Churchmen,—the persons to whom we are addressing ourselves,—we fear nothing from a calm prosecution of inquiry and reflection.

LUNENBURG COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.—In accordance with the expectation expressed in our last, we are enabled to subjoin the Resolutions passed at the last meeting, together with the substance of some of the addresses delivered on the occasion.

Mr. Owen submitted to the meeting, a resolution purporting to express satisfaction at the formation of a "Diocesan Church Society," and of several local committees, to the latter of which the former had now set an example of zeal and activity.—In anxiously soliciting general and liberal aid towards this committee, he urged favorable attention to the more prominent and necessary designs which it sought to advance.—By our rules, each donor might specifically appropriate his subscription or donation to the following, (among other) admirable objects. 1st, supplies of Bibles, Testaments, Common Prayers, and other Religious Books, and of Tracts. Now, the Bible being one great means ordained by the Almighty for the conversion of sinners, how happy should we feel in sending it abroad? Our Prayer Book, containing, (as we believe) and faithfully setting before each reader or hearer, the elements of everlasting truth, and being, as it were, a compendium of the blessed Gospel, should we not rejoice at its being diffused around! And those "silent preachers" also, [religious tracts]—how numerous are the instances of their having been the first means of arresting the daring sinner in his wicked paths—of comforting the distressed, and instructing the ignorant! Another object is the furnishing Clergymen for ministration in the more destitute and scattered portions of our own Province. Others would far more ably advocate this claim upon our support; but he would remark, that it were sadly ungrateful in us who bask beneath the full and uninterrupted privileges and services of our branch of the Church universal, if we allowed the wants of others to continue without endeavouring to alleviate them. Aid to Sunday Schools is also contemplated by our rules. One has said that "he would rather instruct a child than win a City." The conversion and instruction of the heathen being also among our objects, our Society partakes of a decidedly missionary character.—As time forbids now entering into a detail of the awful state, and the sad—sad spiritual wants of the heathen, he would refrain his own remarks, substituting for them the expressions of a missionary when lately returned from among a nation on whom the Divine light of the Gospel was but now beginning to shine. Swan, the missionary, thus prefaced one of his works,—"I have often thought, that were it possible to bring the idolatrous practices—the low depravity—the gross ignorance—the unblushing sensuality of the heathen, actually under the eye of Christians in general, a very different degree of impression would be the effect, and a very different measure of exertion from that which obtains at present, would become the standard of sincere and consistent attachment to the Christian cause."

Would that each of us realized with the eye of Faith (as it were) this dismal picture, and then the standard of our liberality would be regulated by fulness of expansive benevolence and christian love. Let it then be the resolution of each of us, not that this our committee should merely exist; but that it should not dwindle into insignificance. Let it not be said in mere words—CONTINUE—EXTEND,—but by

our donations and our prayers, and our solicitations to those around us, let us aid and advance its operations, and thus continue and extend them. Mr. Owen then read, and earnestly recommended, the following Resolution:—

1. Resolved—That cordially approving of the plan and objects of the Diocesan Church Society of Nova Scotia, this Committee has observed with much satisfaction, that the Society is now in active operation—and that it is the duty of every member of this Committee to use his utmost endeavours to extend the benefits of so excellent an institution.

Seconded by J. Hunt, Esq.

Mr. Michael Rudolf, church warden, then rose and said,—"It is now rather more than two years, Mr. President, since the Society, of which we form a part, was first instituted in Halifax; and it must be acknowledged, that its operations hitherto have been very limited. We have not done as much as the friends of the institution could have wished; but as the cause of this has just been fully explained by you Mr. President, it is not necessary for me to say anything more on this point. When we look around among other denominations of Christians, we find them all engaged in this holy work;—all have their missionary societies; all are endeavouring, according to their means, to send forth the Gospel, not only to the poor and destitute of our own land; (and we all know there are many parts of this Province destitute of the means of grace;) but also to the heathen,—to those benighted nations on whom the light of the Gospel has not yet shined. They are lending their aid to bring about the fulfilment of our blessed Lord's last commands, to have the Gospel preached to every creature—"That those nations, who are now living in darkness, may be brought to light, and be turned from the power of Satan unto God," and thereby hasten the accomplishment of the predictions of the Prophets, "When the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea," "and those nations whom he hath made shall come and worship before him, and glorify his holy name." Shall we then do little or nothing in this holy cause when we see others so gloriously employed? Let us look to England—what do we behold there?—We find meetings have been called in every part of the kingdom, for the purpose of augmenting the funds of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. At one of these meetings the sum of £400 sterling was subscribed; and in another place, an individual, after having heard an account of the spiritual destitution of many of the settlements of the British Colonies, immediately placed the sum of £1000 sterling at the disposal of this venerable Society.—Our worthy Bishop has attended many of these meetings, and has by his presence and eloquence, greatly advanced the cause of missions, and also the interests of this Society. A resolution was passed, to send out 40 additional missionaries to all the British Colonies; 20 of these are intended for these Provinces, to preach the glad tidings of salvation, to all who will hear and obey his blessed truths. Shall we then do nothing in this holy cause, I repeat, when so much is doing for us?—we who are enjoying so many privileges and advantages—we who have the Gospel faithfully preached to us, and the ordinances of the Church, duly and regularly administered unto us. I hope not;—I trust we will not be backward in this great work, I trust all will come forward and contribute cheerfully and willingly to the funds of this Society, in order that its usefulness may be extended. All must lend their aid to have the Gospel preached to every creature. All must unite for this purpose. There are men to be found, who are willing to go to preach this Gospel to the heathen—willing to spend, and be spent, in the service of their Redeemer. Not looking for their reward in this life, for they are sure of a reward in the next. They seek a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Compare the sacrifices they make with what we are called upon to make.—They leave friends, home, and everything that is near and dear to them, to brave the dangers of the sea, and the yet greater dangers of unhealthy climates, and inhospitable regions. Whilst we are merely called upon to give a little out of the abundance which a gracious Providence has bestowed upon us. It is our duty so to do—our obligations are great. Let us remember