

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

BERMUDAS.

The Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia's Report of a Visit to Bermudas in the year 1835—concluded.

Sunday, May 31.—A very hot day. At the particular desire of the admiral I had engaged once more to preach for the convicts, and his barge was sent for me at eight o'clock, in which I proceeded to the dock-yard, where, at half-past nine, I preached to nearly five hundred convicts on board the *Coromandel*, belonging to that ship, and to the *Weymouth*. Immediately after this, I preached to three hundred other convicts on board the *Dromedary*, where I was attended by all the officers and labourers of the dock-yard, who had been assembled at their chapel, but for my convenience came on board the ship. The responses and singing of the convicts were very creditable to them. I was anxious, under the Divine blessing, to be useful to my hearers, and, as well as I was able, adapted all I had to say to their peculiar circumstances. I never had more attentive congregations. Many showed excellent feeling, which was particularly excited, with many tears, when their hopes were directed to their return, as faithful penitents, to their country, their kindred, and their home. Nor did I fail to endeavour to raise still higher hopes, and point them to a heavenly home, and the society of angels, and the perfected spirits of the just. We then proceeded about three miles, partly on foot, but chiefly in a boat, through the beautiful scenery of Mangrove Bay, to the church at Somerset, which was closely crowded. I preached again, and affectionately bade farewell from the pulpit, to this affectionate people, and confirmed a person who had not been able to attend me before. After this, we had to walk two miles, to Mr. Basdens, who had long been one of the Society's valuable schoolmasters, and here we rested for the night.

Tuesday, June 2, was occupied, in part, by attending the sale of every variety of article produced or manufactured in the islands, which are collected by a benevolent and judicious Society of Ladies, for promoting industry among the poor, whom they greatly relieve and assist by their charitable help and attention. The remainder of the day was devoted to intercourse with many excellent persons, from whom I was soon to be separated.

Wednesday, June 3.—A very busy day. In the morning we met a large congregation at the church in Devonshire parish, where I preached on the leprosy of sin. From hence I had to return to the Archdeacon's who, with Mrs. Spencer, were now happily so far recovered from very dangerous illness, as to be able, though not without a serious effort, to go to Paget's, the nearest church, where, by his request, I married a very interesting person, who had been often an inmate in his family; but I was obliged to hurry from the friends whom this marriage had assembled, and proceed to keep an appointment at the church in Smith's parish, where I met a large congregation, whose faith and holiness it was my desire and endeavour to establish and increase. After the service we had time to visit a remarkable rock on the south shore, marked with some rude letters, not easily distinguished at present, of which B is one, and with a cross, and the figures 1543; probably the date of Bermudas's shipwreck on these islands.

Friday, June 5.—A beautiful morning, (though hot,) which enabled me to be early in preparation for a busy day. I first wrote an answer to an affectionate address presented to me by a very respectable portion of the inhabitants of every parish in this Archdeaconry. I proceeded from the *Royal Oak*, on board of which I had slept, five miles to my lodgings, where I had much to occupy me—then received the subscriptions of Mr. Wood, a candidate for deacon's orders, and proceeded with him to the church at Paget's, where I ordained him, and preached upon the occasion. The church was crowded, and I administered the Lord's Supper to more than eighty communicants, including the Acting Governor and his lady, and several members of Council. We were four hours in church, and I was greatly hurried afterwards, in preparing for embarkation at six o'clock. From the time of my arrival, the admiral had very kindly expressed his desire that I should return with him and his family in the flag-ship, for

whose sailing he early named this day. At first I feared this arrangement would delay my return too long; but, as these memoranda will show, abundant occupation was found for me, and I gladly availed myself of a conveyance, in every respect most desirable. I therefore now embarked in the *President*, attended, to the last moment, by my affectionate Clergy, and many of the laity, with similar kindness.

It is impossible for me to close this report without expressions of warmest gratitude for the many comforts and mercies imparted to me during my visitation. Although it was impossible not to feel some inconvenience from the great change of climate, which compelled me to use more caution than ordinary for the preservation of health, I was not interrupted in the performance of any duty by indisposition, or by weather. Whenever we had rain, it fell at night; and there was not one day in which we had not clear sunshine. A lovelier season had never been known in these islands of perpetual summer. I was enabled to deliver thirty-two sermons or addresses; to have eleven confirmations, at which 302 white, and 360 coloured persons were confirmed; to consecrate one church, and one burial-ground; and to ordain a deacon as missionary to the coloured people. I have reason to hope that, through the heavenly blessing, the religious improvement of the island is advancing, and that all the progress that can be reasonably expected has been made, and will continue to advance, in the intelligent and religious instruction of the people of colour, many of whom already show a proper sense of the benefits and blessings which are benevolently extended to them. In my first visit to Bermudas in 1826, (which was the first episcopal visit to that colony,) when the population of the islands was nearly 11,000, I confirmed 1171 white persons, and 104 coloured.

In 1830, 259 white persons, and 130 coloured.
In 1835, 302 ditto 360 ditto
The population now is only between nine and ten thousand. It is also a most gratifying circumstance, that, under the Divine favour, the efforts for procuring increased religious instruction, by the enlargement of churches, by the building of school-houses and chapels, which is now proceeding, and by the employment of two well qualified missionaries, and the prospect of obtaining a third for the especial benefit of the people of colour, have thus far been eminently successful. While the Society, according to their means, are aiding in this good work, the benevolence of the Legislature in Bermudas, and of many pious individuals there, is cooperating with them. The provision for these Missionaries is unhappily insufficient; but we will hope that, through the blessing of God, a door will be opened for some increase to the bounty which is promoting this work of christian love. I feel assured it will have all the aid which the Society can spare, and that it will be forwarded by their prayers. That every thing may be done in that order, and uniformity, and affectionate fellowship, which are essential to the beauty of holiness, the Missionaries are engaged as curates by the Rectors, in whose parishes they are to labour; and thus, too the affection of the coloured people for their Rectors and their parish churches will be undiminished by the warm attachment which we may hope will be excited towards their Missionaries and their chapels,—an object which I have considered it very important to promote. I thought the affection which was formed towards the objects of my care in Bermudas, by my first and second visits to them, could hardly be increased; but the tie thus formed seems to be strengthened by every renewal of our intercourse, and it is my earnest prayer that his intercourse may be greatly blessed to them and to myself.

Saturday, June 6.—By the direction of the Admiral all who were to sail in the *President* slept on board last night; and at an early hour of a most lovely morning, the ship was gliding past the beautiful shore of Bermudas, accompanied by the *Vestal* frigate and an armed schooner, which soon steered for the West Indies. We quickly passed all the narrow channels, favoured by a fair wind, and were on the ocean, which now seemed as smooth as the waters of an harbour, before seven o'clock. A most agreeable and rapid passage of five days, in which we partook of every comfort that can be enjoyed in the most perfect ship, managed with the greatest skill and ability, a passage enlivened by very engaging so-

ciety, and rendered happy by the unbounded kindness of all on board, brought us to Halifax on the morning of Thursday the 11th of June, when I landed, and, as I would humbly trust, grateful for the blessings which had been imparted to me in the last two months.

YOUTH'S COMPANION.

For the Colonial Churchman.

SKETCHES OF SCRIPTURE CHARACTERS.

No. 3.

THE BRAZEN SERPENT. B. C. 1452.

Fiery Serpents—*Their bite were painful as fire.*

While the Israelites were in in the wilderness, they offended God repeatedly. On one occasion he sent fiery serpents, which bit them, and many of them died. Moses prayed for them, and God told him to make a serpent of brass and set it upon a pole; and every one that was bitten, when he looked upon it, was healed.

Christ told Nicodemus that he should be lifted up on the cross, as the brazen serpent was lifted up in the wilderness; and that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Read 21st Numbers. 2 Kings 18, 14. 3 John 15.

The Brazen serpent lifted high,
And seen with a believing eye;
Would heal disease, new vigour give,
And bid the dying sufferer live.
So Jesus Christ, beheld by faith,
Will save from everlasting death.

BALAAH BEATING HIS ASS. B. C. 1452.

Balaam—*Swallowed of the people.*

Balaam wished to disobey God, for the sake of unrighteous gain, and the angel stood ready to destroy him; but the ass on which he rode would not go on. He beat her cruelly because she stood still, though by doing so she preserved him from destruction.

An obstinate person always desires to have his own way, even though it may be very hurtful to him. 'Be not wise in your own conceit,' and be sure that whatever is contrary to the will of God and his word, can only bring you into trouble. 'The love of money is the root of all evil; which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.'

Read 22 Numbers. 13th Joshua. 22. 2 Rev: 14.

See Balaam beat the beast he rode,
That beast to which he safety owed!
How senseless this! And yet may we
In him our own resemblance see,
When we the will of God resist,
And madly in our own persist.

RUTH'S PIOUS REGARD FOR NAOMI. B. C. 1312.

Ruth—*Satisfied.*

Ruth would not leave Naomi, her mother-in-law; and God was pleased to reward her for her kindness. *This is a very interesting story, and we may learn from it that when we do an act of kindness to others, we thereby do good to ourselves also.* The Bible tells us that God will not forget a work and labour of love. Then pray earnestly that God the Holy Spirit may change your heart; for by nature all are disposed to be selfish, and unkind. It is God alone, who worketh in us to will, and to do, according to his good pleasure.

Book of Ruth.

Behold the piety of Ruth!
A bright example this for youth.
Her kindness to Naomi shewn,
The God of Israel deign'd to own,
Made her partaker of His grace,
And mother of a royal race.

THE CHILD SAMUEL. B. C. 1137.

Samuel—*Asked of and lent to God.*

Samuel was brought up under the care of Eli the high priest, being devoted by his mother to the service of God from his birth. He served the Lord when a child, and so may you. When we are kind to others, when we try to subdue our evil tempers, and seek to do His will, then we serve Him. But, remember, it is only by His grace, that we can be