

THE MEMORY OF BISHOP RAVENSCKROFT.

By Bishop Doane.

The introduction into the present number, of the venerated name of the late Bishop of North Carolina, suggests the insertion of the following tribute to his memory, which appeared originally in the *New York American*, directly after his decease. It has been often reprinted, and has contracted errors, which in the copy given below, are corrected.

"For he was a good man."

The good old man is gone—
He lies in his saintly rest,
And his labours all are done,
And the work that he lov'd the best ;
The good old man is gone—
But the dead in the Lord are bless'd !

I stood in the holy aisle,*
When he spake the solemn word,
That bound him, through care and toil,
The servant of the Lord ;
And I saw how the depths of his manly soul
By that sacred vow were stirred.

And nobly his pledge he kept—
For the truth he stood up alone,
And his spirit never slept,
And his march was ever, on !
Oh ! deeply and long shall his loss be wept,
The brave old man that's gone.

There were heralds of the Cross, †
By his bed of death that stood,
And heard how he counted all but loss,
For the gain of his Saviour's blood ;
And patiently waited his Master's voice,
Let it call him when he would.

The good old man is gone !
An apostle's chair is void ;
There is dust on his mitre thrown,
And they've broken his pastoral rod ;
And the fold of his love he has left alone,
To account for its care to God.

The wise old man is gone !—
His honoured head lies low,
And his thoughts of power are done,
And his voice's manly flow,
And the pen that, for truth, like a sword was drawn,
Is still and useless now.

The brave old man is gone!—
With his armour on, he fell ; †
Nor a groan nor a sigh was drawn
When his spirit fled, to tell ;
For mortal suffering, keen and long,
Had no power his heart to quell.

The good old man is gone!—
He is gone to his saintly rest,
Where no sorrow can be known,
And no trouble can molest ;
For his crown of life is won,
And the dead in Christ are blessed !

*The Right Rev. John Stark Ravenscroft, D. D., of North Carolina, was consecrated in St. Paul's church, in the city of Philadelphia, on the 22d of May, 1823. He died in Raleigh, North Carolina, on the 5th of March, 1830, "without a struggle or distorted feature."

†The Right Rev. Thomas Church Brownell, D. D., Bishop of Connecticut, and the Rev. William Richmond, Rector of St. Michael's, St. James' and St. Mary's churches, New York, on their return from a Missionary tour through the valley of the Mississippi, were in Raleigh, on the 25th of February, and found the dying Bishop "humbly waiting for deliverance

from pain and sin, through the merits of an all-sufficient Saviour."

‡The Bishop was at that time (ten days before his death) employing the little strength he had in revising his MSS. for publication. By them; though dead, he will yet speak !

EXTRACTS

From the Report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts—for 1834.

Since the beginning of 1834 seventeen additional Committees have been instituted, besides various Associations not formally united to the Society, but contributing a large portion of their collections to its funds, and assisting in the circulation of its Reports. By these means, together with the increased exertions of the Committees previously established, an addition has been made to the Society's resources which was hardly anticipated by the most sanguine of its members. In the year 1832, when his Majesty's Government announced their intention of withdrawing the Parliamentary Grant for the support of the Clergy in British North America, the income of the Society, arising from subscriptions, donations, and parochial collections, was 7,621*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* In the year 1834, the sum received from the same sources was 12,249*l.* 14*s.* And although a portion of this last amount was derived from donations contributed in consequence of the severe distress of the Colonial Clergy, and cannot be reckoned upon as a permanent item of receipt, yet is there reason to hope that the gross income for the year 1835 will not fall short of the sum realized in 1834.

It will be evident, however, upon the most cursory perusal of the following statement, that there is nothing in these facts to abate the exertions of the Society's friends, or to authorize any diminution in the zeal which has been shewn in its behalf. The expenditure in the year ending on the 31st of December last (viz. 29,293*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*) exceeded the ordinary income by the sum of 7,330*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, and was met by a sale of stock to that amount. In the current year the expenditure will be still greater than in the preceding and the proposed enlargement of the East India Missions, together with the extension of the Society's operations to the West Indies, upon a scale not altogether unsuited to the wants of the emancipated Negroes, will hereafter produce a heavy additional charge.

In order, therefore, to meet the present and future demands upon its funds, the Society throws itself upon the Christian liberality of the British public, with more especial reference to the members of the Established Church. It feels that adequate support cannot be procured until a just sense of what is due from this country to its Colonies, and to the heathen, shall be entertained by the great body of the people. Nor can it expect that help which may enable it to carry its various plans into effect, unless it can render a satisfactory account of the funds already entrusted to its care, and can show that it is proceeding in the sacred task of propagating the gospel throughout the world. By planting Christian Churches among our fellow-countrymen in foreign parts, and supporting them until such time as they may reasonably be expected to support themselves, by procuring the word of God to be faithfully preached to natives of India, and gradually raising up congregations of Christians from among the Hindoos and Mahomedans, the Society endeavours to discharge the arduous duty in which it has engaged. It ventures to hope that a favourable construction will be put upon the different measures which it may adopt with a view to the furtherance of its designs; that due allowance will be made for the extreme difficulties by which its path is beset; and, above all, that the pious and charitable will unite in fervent prayer for that Divine blessing, which can alone cause the seed to swell, and the fruit to ripen, and the harvest to be gathered in its season.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

It was stated in the Report for the year 1833-4, that an arrangement had been entered into between his Majesty's Government and the Society, by virtue of which the existing Missionaries in British North America would receive not less than three-fourths of the salaries which had been paid to them previously to the discontinuance of the Parliamentary Grant; and

while the Society deeply regretted the inconvenience still to be suffered by many excellent men who had no reason to expect so large a deduction from their moderate incomes, it hoped that the deficiency would be generally and cheerfully supplied by the respective congregations. In many instances, especially in the province of Nova Scotia, this expectation has been fulfilled in a satisfactory manner. In Upper Canada also, where the deductions from the salaries of the Missionaries are considerably less than in other places, it is believed that no very serious inconveniences will be suffered; but in the provinces of Lower Canada and New Brunswick, the Society has to regret that no adequate exertions have been made for supplying the wants of the Clergy.

It is due to the Clergy to state, that, with very few exceptions, their submission to the hardships imposed upon them, and their gratitude for the measure of relief which has been obtained, are most exemplary. The distress to which they must have been reduced, if the plan originally contemplated by Government had been carried into effect, would have proved, in many instances, overwhelming. Even now they are exposed to severe privations and will have to struggle, perhaps throughout their lives, with pecuniary embarrassments; yet in a small number of instances only has the Society been abandoned by Clergymen formerly in connection with it; while there are many cases in which it has received assurances of pious resignation to the will of God, of gratitude for the support which is still provided, and of a fixed resolution to persevere, with God's help, in the discharge of those sacred duties to which the life of the Christian Missionary is devoted.

Next to the diminution in the salaries of the Missionaries, there is no part of the retrenchment rendered necessary by the withdrawal of the Parliamentary Grant, which the Society more regrets than that which relates to Schoolmasters and Catechists in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland. Earnest and repeated applications have been made by the Bishop of the diocese for a partial continuance of the allowances formerly made to these persons; but the Society has felt itself compelled to adhere to the determination which has been announced.

With reference to King's College, Windsor Nova Scotia, a different course has been pursued. The scholarships and exhibitions in Nova Scotia have been suppressed, and it is proposed to discontinue the divinity studentships both in the diocese of Quebec and in New Brunswick. It appeared, however, to be a matter of first-rate importance, that there should be one Seminary in the Colonies, to which students in theology might repair, with a view to their future admission into holy orders. The want of such an institution is much increased by recent circumstances, which will increase the difficulty of recruiting the ranks of the Colonial Clergy from the mother country, while the deduction in the salaries of Missionaries renders them unable to defray the expense of a clerical education in Europe for such of their children as may be disposed to become candidates for the ministerial office. The Society (taking these circumstances into consideration, has resolved to continue its annual grant of 500*l.* towards the general expense of the Institution, trusting that, with this assistance, it will be able to provide means for clerical education in the Colonies, and ultimately to contribute, on an extended scale, to the propagation of the Gospel in British North America.

EAST INDIES.

Two remarkable events in connexion with the propagation of the Gospel in India have occurred in the course of the years 1834 and 1835:—the visit of the Bishop of Calcutta to the ancient Protestant Missions in the south; and the consecration of the Rev. Dr. Corrie, late Archdeacon of Calcutta, as Bishop of Madras. From each of these events, the Society confidently anticipates most important advantages, both as regards its own means of sustaining and strengthening the Christian Congregations in India, and still more with reference to the superintendance which will henceforth be exercised over the complicated affairs of the Native Churches.

The Society, as may be supposed, did not fail to take advantage of the presence of the Bishop of Madras in this country, in order to consult him respecting the measures best calculated to promote its object in his diocese, and it had the happiness to be ac-