

Missionary Intelligence.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

Tuesday, March 3.

A letter was read from the Rev. G. H. Nobbs, dated Norfolk Island, Oct. 15, 1856, giving an account of the removal of the Pitcairn community to Norfolk Island. Mr. Nobbs begins by stating that the "Morayshire," sent by the Governor of New South Wales from Sydney to take the people, arrived at Pitcairn on the 21st. of April. The following are extracts from the letter:—

"Though I am writing to you from Norfolk Island, much that I relate is taken from my private journal, and was of course written before I saw this place.

"May 1st, 1856.—This day assembled for the last time (as we supposed) in our church for Divine Service; it was a solemn time; most of the congregation were deeply affected. All the rest of the day employed in getting things off to the ship. Went on board to examine the ship, and found her all that could be desired; towards evening returned on shore, having had a most kind reception from Captain Mathers. There is no surgeon on board. The medical, as well as the clerical, superintendence will devolve upon me.

"Saturday, 3d.—Fine weather. Breakfast eaten with heavy hearts. My family being among those appointed to embark first, previous to doing so, Mrs. Nobbs and myself went into the grave-yard, where are deposited the remains of our first-born. Scarcely a word was spoken by either one of us, but tears fell freely. Why? Not because we lamented the lot of a saint in Christ; but because we were about to leave the grave and head-stone which had often, since the death of our child, afforded us the melancholy but soothing contemplation of 'his name and years spelt by th' unlettered muse,' but now we were about to leave these frail memorials, which had become unspeakably dear to us, never to behold them more; the reflections caused our tears, and not an ungrateful repining, that our son was with his Lord. Vale, Reuben, till this corruptible shall have put on incorruption.

"At Bounty Bay we rejoined those who were to embark in the same boat with us, and, passing safely through the surf, commenced our departure. After a short pull, we got on board the 'Morayshire,' and were kindly received by her commander. Now my vocation commenced in reality. Neither women nor children could remain in the berths; so we had to make a field bed on the deck; and as the boats came alongside and were discharged, we laid the sea sick community side by side, and did the best we could for their comfort. By four o'clock, P. M. every person was on board, without any accident occurring; and the ship made sail with a fair breeze; and in the dusk of the evening Pitcairn receded from our view.

"There were very few of the late inhabitants on deck to take a last long lingering look at the much loved and ever-to-be-remembered spot; but very many men, women, and children, wished themselves on shore again; for so intensely were they suffering from nausea, that could they have regained the shore they would most assuredly have remained there. During the whole night I was continually employed in attempting to relieve their sufferings. Night after night I had been in attendance on them; and great was my fear that some would not land on Norfolk Island; but it pleased our heavenly Father to spare their lives, and add one to our number during the passage.

"During the whole passage the community at seven A. M. assembled on the berth-deck at the ringing of the bell, purposely suspended there, when the Scriptures were read, and prayer offered to the Father of mercies, to implore his protection for the coming day.

"At 1 P. M. dinner was served. Grace being said by the senior person of each mess, proofs of a good appetite were not wanting; though in that respect there was a manifest difference between a fair wind and a foul wind, if the latter was producing a head sea. At 3 P. M. the bell rung, and Divine Service was performed, Lieutenant Gregorio always standing, with the community. After service all that were able went on deck, and generally remained there till supper-time, which was six o'clock. At 8 the bell again rung, and all assembled for prayer. The service commenced by singing a hymn, then reading the Scriptures and prayer, and concluded by all joining in the Evening Hymn; then whoever chose went to bed, some went on deck, and generally remained for a while, and many of the younger people spent a couple of hours, singing under the instructions of Charles Christian.

"Sunday, June 8th.—Close in with Norfolk Island. No doubt other parts of the island have a better appearance, but this side certainly loses in the comparison with our 'Rock of the West.' At 10 A. M. left with my family and some others in the ship's life boat; but it blew fresh, and we were near two hours getting on shore, the wind being off the land. During our passage several squalls of rain occurred, and the boat leaking badly, we were thoroughly drenched, the women and children presenting a most forlorn appearance.

"By 1 o'clock all our people were landed without any accident occurring, and the weather clearing up, the boats returned for our bedding. During the whole time of disembarkation, Captain Denham remained on the pier, notwithstanding the heavy rain, and welcomed our people as they landed to their new home, and avinced the greatest anxiety for their comfort. Towards the close of this eventful day we all assembled in a large upper room in the military barracks, Capt. Denham and most of the government establishment being there also, when we solemnly and gratefully offered our thanks and praises to our Triune God for his continued goodness and mercy in thus bringing us to our future earthly home; and I trust we were sincere in imploring his watchful care, that we swerve not to the right hand nor the left. Soon after dark we all retired to rest under the same roof, and a quiet and comfortable night we passed.

"Sunday, 15th.—Divine service twice in the church, which is much out of repair about the roof. Administered the Holy Communion to fifty-eight persons; but the only persons not of our community were Capt. Denham and Mr. Gregoric. After service a melancholy duty called us to the graveyard, which lay at some distance from the village. Yesterday, somewhat suddenly, though not unexpectedly, departed this life the infant Phoebe Adams; this child had been very near death a short time before leaving Pitcairn's.—This afternoon we committed the mortal remains to their parent earth in that grave-yard where stands the record of many whose crimes had banished them from country and friends, and also of others, whom deeds of violence and bloodshed after their arrival here, had brought to an untimely, and it is to be feared, an unprepared end."

Mr. Nobbs then proceeds to mention the arrival of the Bishop of New Zealand with Mrs. Selwyn, and the Rev. J. C. Patteson, his Chaplain, on Saturday, July 5.

"Monday, 7th.—The Bishop and myself went through the prisons and other departments of the Convict Establishment, but no sound was there of good or evil; they were more dreadfully mementos of the past. It was harrowing to pass through these barriers of wood and stone, and to be continually stepping on bolts and shackles, and using much strength to swing on their hinges the ponderous doors of cells and dungeons, which, when closed were impervious to the light of day.

"Tuesday, 8th.—The Bishop's vessel, the 'Southern Cross,' came in, and was telegraphed round to the Cascades. By request the Bishop performed Divine Service, and then took his departure. Mrs. Selwyn, not enjoying good health, is to remain until his return.

"Mrs. Selwyn and myself are much engaged in preparing the people for the rite of Confirmation, which the Bishop intends to confer at his return.—The school is kept as it was on Pitcairn's Island; Francis Nobbs is the schoolmaster, and I attend four hours every day. Mrs. Selwyn comes daily to instruct the elder girls of the school in grammar, geography, &c. She is most diligent and condescending, and it will be a public loss when she leaves."

It appears by the journal of Tuesday, Sept. 2d., that on that day a vessel approached the island. Mrs. Selwyn had been residing there about two months, the Bishop being then on his cruise to the eastward in his schooner-yacht. The name, the 'Southern Cross,' had been read by the help of the glass; but great was the disappointment when she proved to be not the Bishop's vessel, though, like his, her upper works were painted green. It was the 'Southern Cross,' a barque, Capt. McArthur, with a cargo of wheat and biscuits, which had arrived from Talcahuano for fuel. The Captain furnished the islanders with provisions, of which they were in want, and they returned the benefit by helping him to a supply of fuel.

On the 4th appeared the 'Southern Cross' of the Bishop, who landed on the 5th; his boat being rowed on shore by a crew of six Solomon Island natives, whom he had brought with him. They had rings in

their noses, and large holes in the lobes of their ears. The young towers obeyed his Lordship's directions with the greatest alacrity, and were allowed to land. They were viewed with much curiosity, sympathy, and attention, by the islanders, but manifested very little surprise at the people, the horses, the buildings, and other objects on the island.

On the 6th the Bishop was busy examining the candidates for Confirmation.

On the 7th, (Sunday) he, with the assistance of the Chaplain, the Rev. J. C. Patteson, and the Rev. G. H. Nobbs, administered the Holy Communion. On the same day the Bishop confirmed eighty-six persons, the whole of the adult population excepting three, who were unable to attend. Elizabeth Young, aged 66, daughter of Mills, of the "Bounty," was the oldest, and Andrew Christian, aged 15, great grandson of Fletcher Christian, the youngest of the candidates. Before the close of the Confirmation it had become nearly dark in the church.

The Bishop, after the Second Lesson in the afternoon, baptized a grandchild of the original John Adams,—the infant child of John Adams the second. On the following day the Bishop with his party left for New Zealand.

"Oct. 15th.—Now I must conclude. The 'Bishop Selwyn' was here yesterday, bringing ten tons of potatoes and other things from friends at New Zealand. Two hours after her arrival, in comes another schooner from Sydney, with bread, flour, rice, peas, &c. So that now, blessed be God, our prospects are indeed bright, and I am sure you will rejoice with me.

"P. S. I forward this to Sydney by the 'Kate Kearney,' which takes nine bales of wool of our own clipping. Believe me ever," &c.

A letter from Captain Freemantle, of H. M. S. "Juno," off Norfolk Island, Oct. 15th, 1856, stated that he had on that day left there a quantity of yams and taro from Tongataboo for planting. He had not landed, but the chief magistrate of the island had waited upon him, and given him a very favorable report of the condition of the islanders, and of their gradual progress in agricultural pursuits. They were all well and happy. In addition to supplies of yams and potatoes furnished by the Bishop of New Zealand, his Excellency Sir W. Denison had sent them to tons of potatoes from Sydney. It was added: "In the full sense of the term, these good people are now in want of nothing."

Selections.

A case tried at Stafford, on Friday, shows the existence of a credible superstition in that county. Thomas Charlesworth, now in the twenty-ninth year of his age, owns and occupies a farm of forty acres at Bromley Hurst, in the county of Stafford. In April last year he found that something ailed the milk, that things went wrong in the dairy, that the cheese wouldn't 'come,' and that the dairymaid was ill. For these facts he seems to have been at a loss to account, until a man upon his farm suggested that there was witchcraft at work, and that a certain James Tunnichiff, keeper of a beer-sheep, was the man to stop it. So to James Tunnichiff he repaired, who at once accepted the office of exorcist, and used it to good account. The unfortunate farmer had had a quarrel with his mother, and to her the supposed bewitching was laid. An adequate idea of the credulity of Charlesworth and his household can, however, only be conveyed by extracts from their own evidence. The prosecutor, after stating his having applied to Tunnichiff, went on to say—

The next morning he came into my house and saw me. He said all my cows tied up by the neck, two horses, and myself, were bewitched, as well as my wife, the dairymaid, and the cheese-kettle. (Laughter.) He said he could stop it by paying 3s. 6d. for each of the cattle, 5s. for myself, 5s. for the dairymaid, and 5s. for the cheese-kettle. (Laughter.) There were twenty-seven cows tied by the neck. He wanted all the names of the cows put down. He said he could free my wife by taking one bit out of her dress. He said my mother had had a broad hand on me, and had only put her finger on her. I gave him the names of the cows, and paid him the money, amounting altogether to about 6l. or 7l. He said he must see the horses before he went. I went with him and he laid his hands on them. The next day the dairymaid was no better, and the cheese was no better. (Laughter.) I went next day and told him so. He said he could come over next morning and see to it. I had two cups of ale. On my way home I was took very ill. I had shooting pains in my chest, and my head was very bad. The prisoner came the next day. He said he did not