

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE. Eph. 2 c. 20 v.

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DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

BERMUDAS.

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

Sunday, April 26.—By the skill of our pilot, favoured by a fair wind, we were through the narrow passages near St. George's at an early hour, and soon met the admiral's barge, which had been very kindly sent for our comfortable and speedy conveyance to the shore. We landed at the admiral's beautiful residence, Clarence Hill; and although, a few days before, we had left cold, and frost, and snow, we were now in a delightful temperature, surrounded by profusion of flowers, and all the beauties of rich summer scenery. I proceeded immediately to the nearest church, that of Pembroke, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Lightburn, where I arrived before he knew I was in Bermudas. I met the usual congregation, which was very respectable; and that no time might be lost, I addressed them from the altar, at some length, to assist in preparing them for confirmation on the following Wednesday. I then preached on the season of Easter, and the duties which it more immediately suggested. No congregation could be more attentive. After the service, I was most kindly welcomed by a warm-hearted people, and thus encouraged at once to every exertion for their spiritual welfare.

Wednesday, April 29.—We attended divine service at the church of Pembroke Parish, accompanied by several of the Clergy; and met a large congregation, although the weather threatened much, and some slight showers of rain interrupted us. I confirmed fifty-nine white persons, and forty-seven coloured, and preached afterwards, addressing myself especially to the confirmed. After a very short rest, we proceeded to Devonshire Parish, where sixteen white, and seven coloured persons were confirmed. I preached again, and especially addressed those. The important change which had been effected in the condition of the coloured people, by their liberation from slavery on the 1st of August, 1834, had occupied much of my attention, and I considered it an especial duty to ascertain as correctly as possible all its effects, with a desire to make my visit profitable to this portion of my charge. My inquiries were therefore frequently, indeed continually, directed to this point; and the result shall be communicated as it became known to me, with a hope that even repetitions, if they should occur, will be pardoned on account of the importance and interest of the subject. On this day, I clearly ascertained that the conduct of the coloured people had been commendable since their liberation, although the anxiety and even impatience which were excited, as the day for its completion approached, had raised some apprehension that it would be otherwise. It now appeared to be the general opinion that less, and less heinous crime had been committed by these people in the last, than in any previous year. In the laudable readiness of the masters to relinquish entirely the proffered apprenticeship, the slaves had been completely and unreservedly emancipated on the 1st of August; and it was overlooked at the time, that the presence of every slave would be necessary, that he might be regularly valued, before compensation could be awarded to the master. It is therefore greatly to the credit of the coloured people, that after this total emancipation, which left them to go whithersoever they pleased, every liberated slave readily came forward, that he might be valued for the convenience and benefit of his former master. There was but a single exception in the case of an individual of indifferent character, who has never been seen or heard of since the emancipation. It is equally creditable to the masters, that there have only been two instances of a counterclaim, that is, a claim of some second person, who, being the cre-

ditor of the owner, has had something like a mortgage on the slave.

Sunday, May 3.—In the morning we drove four miles to the church, in the parish of Warwick, which has lately been erected at an expense of 1200*l*. Nearly a third part of it has been allotted to the people of colour, with comfortable accommodation for one hundred of them. Many more than that number were now crowded into their portion of the church. The building is beautifully situated, and finished in very good taste. I preached on the rite of confirmation, and afterwards confirmed six white persons, and thirty-four coloured. The parish is small, and most members of the church-families above the age of sixteen, had been confirmed in my former visits to these islands. More coloured persons would have been brought forward, but the Archdeacon, who is rector of this parish and Pagets, had been judiciously strict in the admission of candidates, and resolutely rejected all who, under any circumstances, continued to live in concubinage. At four o'clock, we had service at Pagets, where the church was in very neat order, and where, as at Warwick in the morning, we had a large and very respectable, and attentive congregation. After confirming thirty-nine white, and twenty-eight coloured persons, I exhorted all to perseverance in the course on which they had entered.

Monday, May 4.—We attended divine service in the morning, at Pembroke, when a very excellent assize sermon was preached by the Archdeacon. We accompanied the court to the Court-house, and heard a very interesting charge from Mr. Chief Justice Butterfield, confirming the gratifying intelligence I have already mentioned, of the diminution of crime. He also stated, that the new Watch law, which had been passed expressly to meet the evils which, it was apprehended, would be created by the emancipation, had not been used, even in a single instance. This day I received a deputation from a society of coloured persons, formed in Pagets, to assist their poorer brethren, and promote habits of industry and morality, and assist education. They presented me with an address, soliciting my countenance, blessing, and prayers.

Wednesday, May 6.—This day having been appointed for the consecration of the new church of St. Mary, in the parish of Warwick, a large congregation was assembled there at 11 o'clock, many of whom came from distant parts of the islands. The Archdeacon, and the eight Clergymen in this archdeaconry, attended, and the services occupied several of them. I preached upon the occasion, and the attention and decorum of the crowded assembly was very gratifying; I improved the opportunity for delivering a charge or address to the Clergy, alluding to all the peculiarities of their situation, and especially to the great change in the condition of the coloured members of their flocks, and enforcing the particular call of the present time for increased zeal, active diligence, exemplariness, and self-devotion. All I said was attentively and affectionately received. In the afternoon I had leisure for a long walk, and for obtaining various information relative to the natural history and cultivation of these islands. I saw a single acre of ground, whose two crops in one year, — one of arrow root, and one of onions, — sold for 250*l*. sterling. It is well that the produce is so abundant, and that the cultivation requires much manual labour for there are not more than five hundred acres in the colony under cultivation.

Thursday, May 7.—was occupied by endeavouring to make improved arrangements for clerical duty, and especially at the dockyard, and in the convict-ships.

Friday, May 8.—The Archdeacon was with me at an early hour, and attended me to the parishes of Hamilton and Smith, under the charge of the Rev. Richard Tucker. In the first of these, the parish of Hamilton, or Bailey's Bay, (for most of the parishes in Bermudas have two names) I was rejoiced to

find a large addition to the church, which is very beautifully situated, in good forwardness, and for the additional accommodation of the people of colour. The congregation was large and attentive. I preached, and afterwards confirmed thirty-three white and twenty-five coloured persons. I had some miles to go to Smith's parish; and having been greatly heated in church, I had a very uncomfortable chill in the boat. I was thankful, however, to be able to confirm seventeen white persons, among whom were the Rector and his wife, and thirty-four coloured, all of whom I afterwards addressed. We did not get home until a late hour.

Sunday, May 10.—The weather was very favourable for the many engagements of this day. We first visited a Sunday school in Somerset, or Sandys, for coloured persons, which has fifty on its list; some of these, with no other instruction than this school affords, read with propriety in the New Testament. I exhorted them to a due and thankful sense of their privileges, and a diligent improvement of them, with earnest desire to make them instrumental to their temporal and eternal happiness, and then dismissed them with a blessing. This school is creditably taught under the direction of the Rev. R. Hoare, the Rector of this and the adjoining parish of Southampton, or Port Royal, by James Wade, a coloured person. Our next visit was to an excellent Sunday school for white persons, well conducted by fifteen teachers. It contains a hundred scholars, who are greatly indebted to the attention of their very exemplary teachers. We could only wait for their psalm, which was sung in a very engaging manner. I endeavoured to encourage both teachers and pupils, and prayed for a blessing upon all. The church was greatly crowded; it had been enlarged and much improved, and is very creditable to the excellent parishioners of Somerset. Forty-five white persons, and eighty-three coloured were then confirmed. We were obliged to proceed without loss of time to the parish of Port Royal (4 miles,) near which we visited another Sunday school of seventy white persons, which is well conducted; here I endeavoured to offer suitable advice, and prayed with and for the teachers and the taught. The church was much crowded; and I now thought it desirable to collect the coloured candidates for confirmation around the altar, and there endeavour to impress upon them the serious obligations which had been urged in the morning. Thirty-five white persons and fifty coloured were then confirmed, and I afterwards endeavoured, from the pulpit, to represent the full nature of the christian covenant, and its binding obligations upon all. I concluded with an appeal on behalf of the Sunday schools, for which a liberal collection was received. We expended the day, and were obliged to have lights in the church.

To be continued.

STATUE TO THE MEMORY OF DR. JOHNSON.

The Rev. Chancellor Law has submitted to the Corporation of the city of Lichfield, the very liberal proposition to erect a statue, at his own expense, to the memory of Dr. Johnson, in the market-place, opposite the house where the learned lexicographer was born. It is expected that the Corporation (who are owners of the market-place) will at once accept this handsome offer of the reverend gentleman.

CONSECRATION OF A DISSENTING CHAPEL.

Castle-street Chapel, in the borough of Reading, which has been for forty years in the Countess of Huntingdon's connexion, is to be consecrated for the service of the Church of England by the Bishop of Salisbury. The appointment of the Minister will be in the Trustees perpetually. Many of the Trustees who superintended the building of the chapel are now living, viz. Dr. Ring, Mr. French, Mr. Lawrence, sen., Mr. Young, sen., Mr. Williams, &c.