

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 1853.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

We heartily wish for all our readers and supporters, that happiness may be their portion, during the New Year which begins its course to-day.

It is a time which the serious Christian will ever seize for devout and godly consideration. He will review the past in humility and self-abasement, for all its short comings, and in gratitude to an Almighty Benefactor for its numberless mercies, spiritual and temporal. And he will look forward to the future, with the feelings of sobered expectation, which are dictated by experience of the changes and chances of this mortal life. He will remember "that all that cometh is vanity."—Reflecting that in the last year the grave has closed over the great, the rich, the healthy and the beautiful, he will not boast himself in the secure possession of any of these things, but will pray that he may sit loose to the things of a transitory world—and be ready to strike his tent at a "moment's warning" and begone to a "city which hath foundations, whose Builder and maker is God."

On this day, also, the Church brings to the notice of her members, the Circumcision of our blessed Lord, on the eighth day of his "tabernacling in the flesh." This "obedience to the Law for man" may well claim our admiration and praise. And the prayer which is put into our mouths to-day should ascend from fervent hearts—namely—that God would grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit, that our hearts and all our members being mortified from all worldly and carnal lusts, we may in all things obey His blessed will."

FRIENDS INDEED!—We have received a Jersey paper in which we find the following interesting account of a meeting in that Island, in behalf of the Mission of St. Margaret's Bay, N. S.

MISSIONARY TEA PARTY IN ST. PETER'S PARISH-HALL, IN BEHALF OF THE REV. J. STANNAGE'S MISSION, NOVA SCOTIA.

On Wednesday evening, the 24th Nov the spacious Parish-hall of St. Peter's, was once more filled with a highly respectable assemblage of ladies and gentlemen who have for many years, taken an interest in Mr. Stannage's Mission, under the kind auspices of the Rector of the Parish.

This was the fifth Annual Meeting which has taken place in this hall, with a view to second the efforts of a Clergyman, a native of the Island, acting as Missionary among the poor fishermen of one of the roughest shores of North America. The company began to assemble at 5 o'clock; there were present about 160 ladies and 30 gentlemen; amongst whom we noticed the Very Rev. the Dean, and his lady, with several of the leading gentry, and some 8 or 10 of the Clergy, including Mr. Stannage, who is now here on a two years' leave of absence, for the restoration of his health. The room was elegantly decorated with festoons, crowns and devices, in evergreens and flowers.

After tea the ladies sitting round well lighted tables, proceeded to the object of the evening, the manufacture of a large number of articles of clothing, for the benefit of this Mission. Some interesting speeches were delivered in the course of the evening by the Dean, the Rector, and Mr. Advocate Maret; but the principal part was sustained by Mr. Stannage, himself, who addressed the meeting for about an hour, describing in simple and affecting language the trials and difficulties he has had to contend with in the scene of his Missionary operations, and the success which under God has crowned his benevolent efforts. St. Margaret's Bay, the locality in question, is an inland Bay, situated about twenty miles from Halifax. To this mission Mr. Stannage was appointed some 18 years ago, by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. At the first he met with much discouragement; but his eventual success may be judged of by the fact that he has succeeded in raising along the shores of the Bay three Churches, and six Schools in connection with the Church, in a neighborhood where the Gospel was scarcely heard of previous to his arrival amongst them. It was affecting to hear the Rev. Gentleman describe his parting from his Sunday School children, and from his flock generally; they were, he said, "nearly all in tears, so much so that to visit them in their houses became too painful; and as many as could procure vehicles accompanied us twelve miles in the woods on the day we left.

The object of these annual meetings at St. Peter's has been to support the efforts of this zealous Minister.

About ten o'clock the 100th Psalm being sung and the Blessing pronounced by the Dean, the meeting separated, apparently much delighted with their evening.

We are requested to state that any donation, either in work or in money, or any article of Church furniture, for the benefit of this Mission, will be thankfully received at the Rectories of St. Helier and St. Peter, or by the Rev. J. Stannage, 4, Upper Val Plaisant. The Rev. W. R. Cochran, Mr. Stannage's Curate, will see to the disposal of the articles, during the absence of the latter from the Parish.

We have before had occasion to notice several instances of Christian benevolence on the part of the worthy people of Jersey, to the Mission of Mr. Stannage, and other parts of our Province, and we trust becoming gratitude is felt for such disinterested kindness. When those who have never seen our faces in the flesh, and probably never will, shew themselves thus unwearied in well doing, in our behalf, surely it ought to stimulate the slumbering zeal of many amongst ourselves, to support our own institutions, and especially to contribute to the extension of our Domestic Missionary operations, by more liberal donations to our Diocesan Church Society, now the legitimate channel by which the Churchmen of Nova Scotia should "cast their bread upon the waters," and give to the cause of Christ and His Church, according to the ability with which God has blessed them.

We had the satisfaction of officiating on Christmas day and the following Sunday, in three of the four neat Churches at St. Margaret's Bay, to good and well ordered congregations. On each occasion the Lord's Supper was administered to apparently devout communicants. Twenty seven years had elapsed since the writer had officiated in that region, and he feels therefore qualified to speak, by comparison, of the great and happy improvement manifest in the religious condition of the settlements along the shores of the Bay. At that period, there was but one unfinished Church—no settled Minister, and but one indifferent School, taught in a miserable school-house. The pleasing contrast at the present time, is stated in the article above, and has been in part effected by the aid with which the good people of Jersey have strengthened the hands of the Missionary.

We make these remarks as additional testimony that their praiseworthy labours have not been "in vain in the Lord," and in the hope that they will not yet "withhold their hand," for there is still much to be done, and especial need of help in consequence of the failure of industry and labour, on the land and on the water, for several years past.

We have readily inserted the communication of a "Lover of the Psalms," knowing the esteemed brother to be the last man that would make captious objections, and one of the foremost in attachment to the order, discipline and Liturgy of the Church, in which he is an efficient minister.

We had nothing to do with the compilation of the "Psalms and Hymns," lately put forth in this Diocese, but, in common with others, we rejoiced that at last, after many years of talk on the subject, uniformity in this branch of Divine worship would be secured, by the setting forth, under competent authority, of one Collection of Hymns to be used in our Churches.

We believe that general satisfaction is felt with the selection of these from the infinite multitude of such compositions, in use among various denominations.—As to the propriety of giving, not the whole, but only portions of the psalms, our friend is aware that the P. E. Church in the U States has adopted the same plan—moreover, it was desirable to have uniformity in regard to the psalms, as well as the hymns, which could only be arrived at by a selection.—And tho' as he observes, each clergyman is competent to such a work, it was probably considered, that it would save him some trouble to have this done to his hand,—and also, that the people, will thus more readily find the verses given out, than when they were obliged to refer to the whole of a long psalm for the purpose.

We are happy to hear that more than one third of the edition, lately published for this Diocese, has been taken up—and orders are yet to come from many of the country Parishes.

RAILROAD MATTERS.—We see it stated by those who are supposed to be well informed, that the Hon.

Mr. Howo, during his recent visit to England, has succeeded in making such arrangements, both with the Government and with individual capitalists, as will prepare the way for immediate and decisive legislation on the subject of Railways. It is to be hoped that the season of scheming and talking has come to a close, and that, when the Provincial Parliament shall meet, all parties will be ready to unite, as has been done in New Brunswick, in whatever shall prove the best plan for securing to our Province at the earliest period, lines of Railway east, west and north of the Capital, and thus at once impart an effectual stimulus to the prosperity of our country, now so far behind our neighbours.

CORRECTION.—When lately seconding the hint of a clerical correspondent as to brevity in the reports of local D. C. S. meetings, we had no idea of their being curtailed to the small proportions of those from Digby and Yarmouth. We think it would be interesting to see at least the Resolutions adopted with the names of movers and seconders, and perhaps a brief notice of the remarks of each. It is not easy to set limits, but we should say that if the whole account does not exceed a column, it will be suited to our space, and will probably command a perusal.

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, will hold a Levee at Government House this day at One o'clock.

Scientific Contributions towards the Improvement of Agriculture in Nova Scotia, by J. W. Dawson, Superintendent of Education in Nova Scotia, Corr. Mem. of Academy of Nat. Science, Philadelphia. Pictou, J. Dawson & Son. Price 1s. 3d., a liberal allowance to Booksellers.

The above is the modest title of a neatly got up pamphlet of 100 pages, which has been courteously sent to us by its esteemed author. We have not had sufficient opportunity for giving it more than a cursory perusal, but even that is enough to warrant the assertion, that it is a very valuable contribution to the great Branch of our public prosperity which it is designed to promote. We have, on more occasions than one, had the pleasure of calling attention to the services rendered to the public by this gifted individual in reference to the Educational interests of the country—services which we fear are but imperfectly appreciated.

It appears from the work before us, that not content merely to confine himself, when on his Educational tours, to the duties absolutely required of him in that capacity, he seized the opportunity for collecting such information, as might lead to the scientific improvement of the Agriculture of the Province.

The result is embodied in the publication now issued, which treats of the different soils of the country, the various descriptions of grain and other productions, the management of manures, fruit trees, &c. together with an interesting, and extended notice of the numerous enemies which so often destroy the fruits of the earth, and blast the hopes of the farmer. There are also appended, some valuable Meteorological tables, for a period of nine years, furnished by H. POOLE, Esqr., of the Albion Mines, the most complete that have ever been published in Nova Scotia. We think the whole must prove an important auxiliary to the practical Farmer, and the Agricultural Societies throughout the Province will do well to promote the great circulation of this pamphlet in their localities. It is dedicated to His Excellency SIR GASPARD LEMARCHANT.—We purpose in future numbers, to extract from the work. In the mean time we subjoin some of its opening and closing passages.

"Our Agriculture is in a transition state. It may in different districts be found in all stages of advancement, between the first rude attempts of the half-lumberer-half-farmer of a new country, and an approach to the formal and scientific husbandry which is necessary to keep up the productiveness of old land. It is also in a critical state, for if the farmers in our older settlements persist in the wasteful methods of culture which almost inevitably grow up in newly settled regions, they doom their soils to a gradual deterioration which must ultimately impoverish themselves and their successors, detract from the reputation of the country and paralyse its growth. On the other hand in their endeavors to improve they are liable to be misled by the false lights of experiments made and reported with-