

from attending. A note from the Colonel was read to the meeting, excusing himself for non-attendance and stating his willingness to pay into the fund in the course of the coming year the sum of \$400. This announcement was received with applause.

A psalm was then sung by the audience, standing. During the singing a collection was taken up in aid of the Society's funds, which we understand amounted to about \$100.

The fourth resolution was moved by the Rev. R. Lonsdell, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Scott:

"That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to all those who have taken an active interest in the working of the society during the past year—especially to the Secretary, Treasurer, Honorary Council and Lay Committee."

Mr. Lonsdell spoke of the necessity of pushing the branches of the church into districts of the back settlements, where it was impossible the residents could themselves, unaided, support a church. He concluded by passing a high eulogium on the different officers of the Society, particularly the Treasurer, Mr. T. B. Anderson.

The fifth and last resolution was moved by the Rev. C. Wetherall, and seconded by Col. Maitland:

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Lord Bishop for presiding on the present occasion."

The mover expressed his pleasure in moving this resolution. Pleasure in speaking in praise of the object it; and pleasure that it was seconded by a gentleman of the laity. It was gratifying to find the clergy and the laity uniting cordially in their exertions for the church; and also in paying honour to his Lordship.

After singing the doxology, and the benediction being pronounced, the meeting adjourned.—*Montreal Transcript.*

DIocese of QUEBEC.

CHURCH SOCIETY MEETING AT QUEBEC.

The annual meeting of the members of the Church Society of the Diocese of Quebec was held at the Lecture Hall, St. Anne Street, on the 9th inst. The Lord Bishop opened the proceedings in an introductory address of considerable length. The annual report was then read by the Secretary, but neither facts nor figures are given in the newspaper report before us, to show the progress that had been made. The following resolutions amongst others were passed:

The Rev. Mr. Petry moved:—"That this meeting would express its gratitude to Him, from whom all good things do come, for His blessing vouchsafed to the labour of the Society from its commencement."

The Rev. Dr. Hellmuth moved:—"That this meeting desires to urge strongly upon all the members of the church throughout the Diocese the pressing necessity that exists for taking immediate measures for placing the clergy, now labouring among them, on a just footing as regards the sufficiency and permanence of their incomes."

W. Spraggo, Esq., moved:—"That this meeting desires to record the expression of its continued interest in the welfare of the sister societies in the other British North American Dioceses."

After a hymn had been sung, and the benediction pronounced, the meeting dispersed.

Foreign Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

CHINA.

The annual report of the Foreign Committee, published in the November and December num-

bers of the "Spirit of Missions," mentioned the panic which prevailed among the inhabitants of Shanghai, on account of the advance of the insurgents toward that city. On the 18th of August they came, but were speedily repulsed by the foreign forces, and, after remaining in the neighbourhood for a few days, they retired into the interior.

Danger had been apprehended by our missionaries, and arrangements were made for embarkation on board American ships lying there. Happily, however, it was not found necessary to leave the mission premises, except for a very short time.

The insurgents, it is stated, repeatedly declared their purpose not to interfere with the foreign population, and were particularly friendly in their expressions toward missionaries, whom, as they said, they looked upon as brethren of a common faith. What will be the effect of the repulse they have received at the hands of foreigners remains to be seen.

The following extract is from a private letter from Shanghai, published in the "Southern Episcopalian":

The English Consul and many merchants and missionaries sympathise strongly with the rebels, and I have no doubt they have been told so, and told, moreover to "bide their time," but not to come here at present. Soon after the return of the missionaries from Soo-Chow, a meeting was held for conference. All the brethren of all denominations were invited to attend, to discuss the subject, "Are we to regard the Nanking insurgents as Christian brethren?" A very large number attended the meeting, ladies included, and we had a very interesting evening. The question was changed before the discussion began. No one felt prepared to go so far as to look upon the rebels as Christian brethren, and the true subject for discussion was, "How are we to regard the Nanking insurgents, and what is our duty to them at the present time?" There was a good deal said that was interesting. Some were strong believers in and advocates of the rebels, and others were not convinced that they were sincere in their present professions and promises. Bishop Boone said he thought there was one proof by which their sincerity might be tested. They professed the Bible as well as ourselves—would they allow that to be the authority in matters where they differed from us in doctrine and practice? The advocates for the rebels thought there were excuses to be made for their heresies and errors. They had studied the Old Testament principally, and had no assistance in trying to understand the Bible. The prophets of old had had visions and dreamed dreams, and Tai-ping might be under a delusion on that point, and not intend to impose on the credulity of his followers. They were in earnest, and their views of the divinity of Christ and of the Holy Ghost, and other vital truths, might be corrected. They had applied for missionaries to come among them. Bishop Boone agreed that these late facts were most interesting. He thought the missionaries ought to respond to their call, and to deal most kindly and faithfully by them,—point out what we considered vital misconceptions of the doctrines of the Bible, and see whether they will acknowledge the Bible as the standard of truth, or whether the later visions, &c., of the celestial king would be considered the newer and more reliable revelation. All agreed that many of the pretensions made by the leaders, in the earlier stages of the rebellion, were attributable to the eastern king, who was killed several years ago. It seems that the man Mr. Edkins wished to enquire about is now the second king, next in power to Tai-ping, and, in a

book which has recently fallen into their hands, and written by this former teacher, they perceive a very great advance in stating Christian truths over any thing that has before appeared. Mr. Edkins wrote to the second king while he was at Soo-Chow, and the letter was forwarded to Nanking. A few days ago two letters were brought to the London Mission, in a silk-bag, from two kings—the one at Soo-Chow, and the one Mr. E. had written to. The second king stated that, as soon as he had received Mr. Edkins' letter, he had started for Soo-Chow, hoping to meet him there, and requesting him to come and see him. He would wait for his answer. He also wished six missionaries to come and stay among them. Mr. Edkins sent the letters for us to look at, and has, of course, gone again to Soo-Chow to have an interview.

I cannot begin to tell the half of the interesting things we hear about the rebels, nor of the awful state that the country is in. Some of the gentlemen who have been in different directions (merchants as well as missionaries) say that the country in some places is covered with dead and mutilated bodies. The scene and odour made one of the missionaries very sick. The rebels say the imperialists kill more than they do, and the number of suicides has been immense. Every sort of wretchedness the country people are exposed to between the contending parties, for there are unrestrained bands of robbers and ruffians following in the wake of each army, and every enormity is perpetrated on both sides that the wicked can devise. The missionaries have urged the rebel leaders not to come to Shanghai, but they always say they must come. They want the custom-house and foreign duties, and merchants do not feel inclined to have them too near their strong boxes. The foreign authorities say they will resist them if they come; but what with? Both the American men-of-war have gone north with Mr. Ward, and the allies have left about 1,200 troops here. These are scattered about, and I think, if they excite the hostility of the rebels by resisting them, and have not force enough to do it effectually, we shall be worse off, perhaps, than if we had no force at all. I don't see the reason for the American forces all being carried off; however, we know that "unless the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

LETTER FROM THE REV. D. D. SMITH.

The following letter gives particulars of the progress of the missionary in the acquisition of the language, and his employment of the knowledge acquired. It furnishes also some interesting statements in regard to the movements of the insurgents—their visit to Shanghai, and their religious views.

SHANGHAI, August 31, 1860.

REV. AND DEAR BROTHER—Several months have passed since I wrote you, and what can now be said will not differ much from what was contained in that letter. I was then busy studying this language, and just beginning to understand a few words when spoken by my teacher. The daily routine as my journal testifies, has been since that time very much the same: each morning beginning immediately after breakfast, my teacher patiently listening to the incessant repetition of verse after verse of the morning lesson, and this monotonous work is kept up until nearly four hours are consumed. I have now been studying about seven months, and feel greatly encouraged with my progress. The language is intensely tedious, and requires unceasing perseverance and patience.

Besides this regular work of gathering up