

half the number; many being obliged to stand around the windows and door,—and others to go away. The increasing number of the congregation here, has for sometime past determined us to enlarge the chapel; and nothing has hitherto prevented it but the fear of multiplying too much at one time the works proposed and going on in different parts of the parish. But after his Lordship's plain and wholesome advice, not unmixed with some just rebuke,—we hope that the energy of churchmen will be put forth here also, and that before another year comes round, a good addition will be made to the chapel, a vestry built, and a neat convenient pulpit take the place of the cumbersome and almost inaccessible one that now stands there. The efforts of the people to put up a fence and gate before the church, show their readiness to engage in the task; and after a good plan is matured we hope with our combined exertions to make this prettily situated little church what it ought to be in every respect. The Rev. Mr. Arnold read prayers, and the Rector the lessons with the psalms in the confirmation service, after which the Bishop confirmed seven young persons. They had most of them attended regularly the weekly lectures upon the subject, in the chapel for two months past; and appeared at this time to be impressed with the solemn nature of their present vows, and to feel the Bishop's earnest application of the subject in their hearts. His Lordship then preached an instructive and searching discourse from Philippians, Chap. II., part of 12 and 13th verses. We sincerely trust that such earnest words of truth and exhortation as fell upon that crowded congregation, will some day show some fruit to their eternal joy as well as his who so faithfully delivered his message to them. After a very languishing day's work already,—his Lordship reached St. George's, Sydney, in time for evening service, at half past 7 o'clock, where he preached what may be considered his parting sermon, at least for the next three years,—from Luke XIII chap., 6th and 7th verses. He eloquently appealed to the hearts of all present, and endeavoured especially to arouse the careless and unthinking soul, to a sense of the shortness of our earthly opportunities, and the fast approaching hour of final judgment. He proclaimed Christ as the only hope of refuge set before the sinner, and earnestly exhorted all to flee to him for safety and eternal life. Thus concluded this day of hard duty, and the last of his Lordship's ministrations in this portion of the parish.

An accident which might have been very serious, and did result in a severe wound to one person, made a short delay in our coming from the N. W. Arm, and damped in some measure the sacred pleasure of the day. The waggon in which we drove, overtook a cart with a man and woman and two children resident in the neighbourhood; and after clearing the road sufficiently to allow of our passing, and whilst we were in the act of doing so, the horse in the cart became reative, occasioned partly by another stray horse suddenly crossing the road, and brought the hob of the cart-wheel in contact with our waggon, and as one wheel of the cart was at that time upon a bank, it immediately fell completely over into the road. Fortunately the only injury inflicted was a bad cut in the woman's forehead, who we have since heard is doing well. Most providentially the children escaped with little or no injury—although very much frightened. The horse we understand from the owner himself is liable to become excited when any others pass it upon the road.

With this exception we look back upon the late confirmation visit of our Bishop with feelings of much pleasure. The sacred opportunities which were thus afforded have been indeed refreshing; and not only were the consoling truths of pardon and peace held forth from the Redeemer's cross, and the joys of everlasting life depicted as our future and animating prize; but the awakening and unpalatable truth was set before us with plain and affectionate earnestness. May neither the one nor the other be in vain. And may that beautiful ordinance, which accompanied these services, be to those who received it, an ora in their life, to be remembered hereafter with real joy, as the sacred entrance upon that path that leads to a blissful and unfading inheritance in Heaven.

Sydney, C. B., August 1st. 1855.

## The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1855.

### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT—THE RIVER FISHERIES.

SOME friend has sent us Capt. Chearnley's Report to the Provincial Secretary, on the subject of the River Fisheries of the Province, which embraces to some extent the study of which is of much importance to the present and future interests of Nova Scotia.

The river fisheries of various countries, both in Europe and America, are engaging the attention of eminent naturalists, and it is generally conceded, that if the breeds of the finer varieties of fish are to be preserved, either as food for the people, or as articles of commerce, some legal restraints must be imposed upon practices which if persisted in, will soon make them to become extinct. They have already disappeared in many places. The improper and unreasonable pursuit of the finny tribes, the accumulation of the rubbish of saw mills by which the water is poisoned, the building of dams and other obstructions, by which the free passage to and from the salt

water is impeded, or stopped, are principal agents in their destruction. Rivers that formerly were known to abound in salmon, are now unvisited by that noble fish, which have been either killed out, or frightened from their favorite haunts, or obstructed in their progress to their breeding places. Successful attempts are making to restock many of these worn out rivers and lakes; and the people having discovered their mistake in their loss, go hand in hand, and heartily with those engaged in restoring a boon of Providence, the value of which they did not appreciate until deprived of it.

In this great fin country, where the rivers and lakes, as well as the sea coasts, teem with piscatorial life, it may be deemed by many as trenching upon the liberty of the subject, to prevent in any way the taking of fish, either in lake, river or sea; but it is certain that already many of our lakes, especially near the towns, are almost fished out, or only small fry remain in them; while our rivers, that used to abound with salmon, bass, shad, trout, gaspereaux, &c., are every year, owing to the mal practices which prevail, becoming less prolific of their natural inhabitants. The taking fish by improper methods, and at improper seasons, is not, however, the only evil against which the country has to guard; the pursuit of gain, makes many who otherwise would be eager to preserve the fisheries, careless of them, if a free passage for the fish interfere at all with the construction of a dam, or with their lumbering or milling operations. Hence, if the object is to be attained, it becomes important not to leave it altogether to the common ideas of justice of the people. Our Legislature took a step in the right direction, by the appointment of Capt. Chearnley to be the Superintendent of the River Fisheries; and next it behooves them to give him proper authority to prevent further mischief, and to support him in its exercise.

It would appear from the Report, that owing to some cause, perhaps inadvertence, the object sought to be attained by his appointment was almost frustrated, by a superfluous or counteracting clause appended to the Act; and that under the circumstances the Superintendent could not enter on the performance of the duties devolving upon him with any degree of pleasure. His disinterestedness is shown by relinquishing any claim to the salary attached to the office, and leaving it to the Legislature to remunerate him, if they please, for his outlay of necessary travelling expenses.

The substance of the information contained in the Report, is as follows:—

The Superintendent found a serious obstruction in the La Have River, and advised immediate complaint to the Custos. An order from the Sessions caused the prompt removal of the obstruction; and now both the navigation and the fish are unimpeded, to the perfect satisfaction of the inhabitants.

In Pictou County the Warden was found active and zealous in the discharge of his duties, and in consequence the rivers are greatly benefitted.

In the County of Colchester no attempt had been made to open the rivers, and it appeared that the Warden lacked energy. Various obstructions existed in many places, with no earnest desire to have them removed. Improvement stagnates there.

On visiting Cumberland County the Warden was found most anxious to perform his duties, but was surrounded with difficulties. There is a formidable barrier across the Wallace river, often complained of, which impedes the navigation and the passage of the fish. There is something similar in the Pugwash river. In both instances a scarcity of fish will be the consequence, if a remedy is not speedily applied.

We copy from the Report the concluding portion, which is interesting from the facts in natural history which mingle with it; and for the sensible observations directed against those practices which are ruining our inland fisheries:—

"On River Philip, the first mill is in the occupation of Mr. Duncan: the dam extending entirely across, and is seventeen miles from the mouth. Below the mill was a sort of stage, on which lay a salmon spear, seemingly kept there for the use of any who chose to employ it; beside it was a file, to keep this dreadful instrument in order, the prongs of which were polished as though from constant use. Words cannot describe the condition in which I found this river; to understand its state, it must be seen. Until of late years no stream in the world was more prolific in fish; and the tales I heard of the multitudes frequenting it, appear almost fabulous, of which I need but instance the following, related to me by Mrs. Johnson. She stated that only a few years ago, before the erection of dams, her family depended for seven months of the year on the fish obtained from the river; that she was in the habit of sending her boy, (now a grown man, and who was present during her statement and corroborated it,) to the stream every morning, and that he would invariably return by breakfast time with a sufficient quantity for the day's use caught with the hook. This venerable lady implored me to use my utmost endeavours to get the stream opened, as indeed did every one that I

conversed with on the subject. No attempt is here made to accommodate the public millers and fishers, shad being useless to them, are thrown into the river, thousands of tons consequently choke the bed, and when high water occurs, they are carried on meadow lands, so as to completely cover them, or accumulate in vast masses, diverting the stream from its usual course, greatly injuring property, founding the surrounding country and the highway, and at times carrying away large strips of interval and fences. In one case, I found that a dam had been built above the road carelessly; (as all will be constructed until the miller is compelled by law to erect them properly,) a freshet had swept it away, and injury was done to the road, the cost of repairing which amounted to £40.

"I have endeavoured to impress on all the wardens that they should be diligent and zealous in the discharge of their duties, and have conversed with a large number of persons, explaining to them the wishes of the government, and pointing out the importance of protecting the salmon and other fish, and encouraging them to resort to the rivers for the purpose of reproduction. They were generally, if not altogether, willing that a reasonable period should be allowed the fish for procreation.

"The senseless manner in which these fisheries have hitherto been prosecuted, is, I believe, attributable to ignorance of its effects on the part of the inhabitants, rather than to a desire to benefit themselves at the public expense. Nor do I believe they have ever heretofore reflected that the course they pursued must inevitably extirpate the races; and I feel satisfied that the good sense of the people will soon teach them the utility of the law I desire to have passed.

"The salmon cannot subsist entirely either in fresh or salt water, to visit both occasionally is necessary to its existence; it is our most valued and valuable fish, and yet our law for its protection is very defective. I ask that the legislature enact a measure simple and plain in its provisions, unfettered by technicalities, so that they who delight more in the destruction of the royal fish than in putting to death the most obnoxious animals of our forests, may be proceeded against, convicted and punished, if guilty of the offence. While impervious dams and other contrivances, avowed public nuisances, are permitted to exist, or while the magistracy favor the offender against the law, while gangs of disorderly fellows are permitted to take fish with spear and net at all seasons, we can never hope to see our rivers frequented by the fish that once were found there in innumerable multitudes. I desire that the matter should be openly and fairly investigated, without partiality. Individual interests must give way to the general good—nothing need be apprehended from the result.

"The species of salmon and trout found in some of the eastern rivers of this province, I am inclined to think, differ from those resorting our western shores. The salmon in the Truro river certainly do. I had no opportunity of seeing any in the Bay Verte rivers, but from the circumstance of their entering the rivers so late in the season as the month of September, and leaving again in November, they certainly differ in habits to the salmon frequenting our western rivers, which we find ascend in the earliest part of the spring, and not leaving until November. I had much conversation with Mr. David Rogers, who resides on River John, and who appears to possess considerable knowledge of the habits of fish, particularly salmon; he asserts that the salmon to the eastward, in some rivers, are identical with the sort of salmon found in the rivers of Wales, which he called sewin. Those I saw in Truro are a small race, although possessing the flavor of salmon, have a very different aspect to the "salmo salar" of the western waters, are not clothed in such bright plumage, having the appearance of those class of fish found frequenting stagnant pools and muddy waters.

"Trout in River Philip differ from any species I have ever before seen, and attain to a large size, and are by the inhabitants considered a great delicacy. Vessels only a few years ago by used to lead water fish from this stream, but owing to the river being stopped by dams, and all sorts of foul play exercised towards the fishes, they are now nearly extinct.

"Throughout the whole of my tour in the eastern counties, I was made aware that a general wish existed among the people to have the obstructions removed from the rivers, and a proper supervision exercised over the waters, so as to preserve the fisheries. Mill-dams are positively placed across navigable portions of rivers, and constantly so close upon highways, as to cause a yearly destruction to roads; in fact they are daring encroachments on public rights, and if tolerated for a longer period, the situation of the inland fisheries is of a hopeless nature. The law upon the subject might be made simple, and not perplexing, as it now stands.

"If the legislature be anxiously desirous of restoring the inland fisheries, they must use a public, spirited and energetic dash at the existing obstructions, and sparing.

"Many of these dams have been erected by men of fortune in this country, who ought to show a different example; also, by magistrates who ought to recollect that they are selected for that high office, to protect the interests of the poor, and all public privileges.

"These men particularly, should exhibit to the public a liberality of conduct and an observance of the law, and no longer allow themselves to be classed with oppressors of the poor and usurpers of public rights.