



A VIEW OF CLAIRMONT, THE RESIDENCE OF BISHOP INGLIS.

The Rev. J. Wiswell had a very extensive field of labour, including the territory which is now divided into the four parishes—Horton, Cornwallis, Aylesford and Wilmot, or the whole of King's Co. and one township of Annapolis. In the whole of this wide district there was not one church or school-house. Mr. Wiswell's stipend was provided by the S. P. G., besides which he received a grant of 200 acres of land from the Government. This grant is what is now known as the Wiswell property in Wilmot.

The first church building erected in Mr. Wiswell's charge was built at the expense of Col. Burbidge and Mr. Best in Cornwallis in A.D. 1770. It was a small building, which was replaced by the present edifice in 1802 or 3.

The services of the Church in Aylesford were necessarily held in private houses or school-rooms until the present church building was erected in 1790-91. The parish is indebted for this substantial, old, yet well kept building, to Col. Jas. Morden, who was at that time ordnance storekeeper at Halifax. Col. Morden was the owner of extensive tracts of land in this vicinity, on which he erected dwellings for his tenants. For the benefit of these tenants, as well as to encourage settlers to come to the country, he interested himself in the building of this church. We learn something of this from the copy of a document which was placed in the upper ball attached to the vane on the tower, as follows:

"This Church of St. Mary's was built in the year 1790, under the patronage of His Excellency John Parr, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor of this Province.

"The Right Rev. Chas. Inglis, First Bishop of Nova Scotia, and

"James Morden, Esq., ordnance store-keeper;

the first minister, Rev. John Wiswell; the builder, Wm Matthews."

From Mr. Matthews' bill of construction we glean the following:—

"The total cost of the building, £475 1s. 5d. This amount was chiefly obtained from donations received by Mr. Morden, as follows: Governor Parr, £222 4s. 6d.; various smaller benefactors, £86 3s. 4d.; James Morden, £165 13s. 7d. Total, £475 1s. 5d. The furnishings of the church were all gifts, among others an elegant folio Bible with three Prayer Books to match, the gift of Gov. Wentworth.

"In addition to the great care and expense to which Mr. Morden had been, he gave a deed of the grounds (between five and six acres), on which the church stands, with its surroundings."

In the year 1787 occurred the consecration of Dr. Chas. Inglis, first Bishop of Nova Scotia, as well as the first Colonial Bishop. The Parish of Aylesford, from its connection with Bishop Inglis, having been the seat of his residence during most of his episcopate, as well as that of his son John, who was first rector of the parish and then third bishop of Nova Scotia, is of peculiar interest to all members of the Church in the Diocese, and in particular to those who remember, with reverence and affection the grave manner and dignified bearing of the former, and the happy laughing countenance, with the affectionate sympathetic nature of the latter. It was during the latter part of Mr. Wiswell's ministry, about the year 1789, that Bishop Chas. Inglis became a resident of Clairmont, Aylesford. We have been unable to learn much of the work of Mr. Wiswell, but what we have already said of him shows that he must have spent a busy life. His ministry seems to have come to a close about the last year of the eighteenth