

ment for introducing amongst them the Ministry of the Church. The Bishop, as has already been intimated in the instance of Grosse Isle, took care not to entangle them in any hasty engagement nor to take advantage of the impressions made while they were freshly warmed by the peculiar circumstances of his visit; nor did he, on the other hand, say anything to compromise the distinctive claims and character of the Church,—but he pointed out to them at the same time, without reserve, that, belonging, as they did, by the original names which they severally carried in Religion, to four or five different denominations, the Church of England included, it was manifestly impossible that such a little band, so perfectly cut off from the rest of the world, could enjoy the benefit of the ministry at all, if each party were to require it under the name which might still loosely attach to them, and that they must either unite under some one name, or do nothing and remain as they were. They all, however, gave in their deliberate and thankfully-expressed adhesion to the Church, and received very gladly her prayer book together with tracts which (among many others of a different description,) were explanatory of her system, usages and worship. Sponsors stood forward for all the children who were to be baptized, after a full statement of the obligations which they contracted. In every place where the service was performed, the people all knelt in prayer, and if any were able, united in singing. There did appear to be among them, although there have not been wanting some painful evidences, here and there, of the natural effect of their unprovided condition in Religion, a pervading sense of their spiritual wants; and there is encouragement to hope that there are cases where the feeling amounts to a *hunger and thirst after righteousness*. The number of Protestant souls on the islands, children included, is 173. The men are, almost without exception, engaged in fishing and at the same time in the cultivation of the portions of land which they occupy. Their domestic arrangements and appliances are upon a very limited scale, and of a very simple and primitive description, and they are, generally, poor. The hand-mill is in use among them for the grain which they raise for their own consumption—or they send it to the mills in Prince Edward's Island, or at Pictou in Nova Scotia. A mill, however, is now in course of erection upon Entry Island, and another is talked of at Grosse Isle. There is no town—scarcely anything which can be called a village, upon the islands—post office or tavern are things unknown—public conveyances of any kind upon the spot, or means of stated communication with places abroad, are wholly out of the question. The proprietor of the whole group of islands, is Captain Coffin, R. N., resident in Europe, to whom they were bequeathed by his uncle, the late Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, the grantee of the Crown. Mr. Munsey, the agent, seems to be much interested for the religious as well as the temporal welfare of the inhabitants, and has instructions of a liberal character from his principal, who, it appears, does not desire to look to the property as a source of revenue and wishes to expend upon public improvements within the islands, whatever he may receive from them. Unfortunately, however, an opposition to the claims of the proprietor has arisen among the French, who constitute the great body of the population, being in the proportion of more than ten to one; and they have, under the influence, it may be presumed, of bad advice, refused to come into his terms of accommodation or composition. The litigation consequent upon this resistance has furnished (for crimes cognizable by human law appear to be never heard of among the people,) the entire business of the Circuit Court, and very much drained the resources of the litigants upon the spot,—diminishing, of course, at the same time, the value of the property (which, as yet, is believed to make no return to its owner) and obstructing the prosperity of the islands.

A scientific and statistical account of these islands was published by Lieut. Baddeley, R. E., in the form of a pamphlet, with a map prefixed, among the papers of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, in 1839.

The Missionary whom it is hoped to send down next year, to fix his residence among the islanders, must divide his labours as equally as possible between the eleven families of Entry Island and the ten at Grosse Isle—affording also some proportion of his

ministrations to the fewer and more scattered Protestants of House Harbor and its vicinity. A small Church or Chapel must be built, at once, upon each of the two islands just mentioned, which are upwards of thirty miles apart—and it will indeed be a grateful sight when, according to present hope, it shall please God, that these structures, very humble though they may be, shall rise among the habitations to indicate blessing and to sanctify the character of the settlement;—a grateful sight when the islanders and their children shall at last be seen stately gathering together to worship *Him* with the holy worship of the Church, to hear declared to them *the unsearchable riches of Christ*; to be taught to *walk with God* all the day long; and to partake in his ordinances dispensed to them by the authorized servant of the sanctuary. They long for the day themselves: and will do their part towards the erection of the Churches, (as they will also for school-houses, which it is hoped to supply with teachers) by collecting and preparing materials for which they depend chiefly upon *wrecks* (so unhappily frequent are they upon their shores,) and drift timber—the growth of the islands being nothing but small kinds of fir with an occasional intermixture of birch, and there being no stone which is adapted for the purposes of building. The good Church Societies in England will afford, through the hands of the Bishop, some aid in the work: the Diocesan Church Society, will, it may be anticipated, make such a grant as the multiplying calls upon it will permit—and possibly, these statements here made, may, by the divine blessing, meet here or there some eye which will look with kindness and compassion upon the wants of the remote and obscure little flocks, the *few sheep in the wilderness*, so long left in destitution, for whom a hope is now lit up, and may thus prompt a donation either in money or in a seasonable present of some of the decent appendages which are *for the work of the service in the house of the Lord*,—a set of Church service books, a plain set of communion-plate, a covering for the holy table, a pede-cloth, a font or a bell. It would be a pleasing token of Christian sympathy; and, given for the love of Christ, would carry an acceptable savour up to Heaven: perhaps it would be associated with the beginnings of a more important future than now appears to those who would think that too much has been made of the wants and interests of this scanty handful of fishermen. Happy indeed will be the reward reserved for the servant of the Church of Christ, whose efforts are here recorded to put things in train for the relief of those wants and the advancement of those interests, if he shall be graciously enabled, with the necessary adaptations, and so far as may be permitted to men of modern days, to appropriate to the case, the words of the Prophet:

*The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house: his hands shall also finish it: and thou shalt know that the Lord of Hosts hath sent me unto you. FOR WHO HATH DESPISED THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS?*

#### THE MISSIONS IN THE DISTRICT OF GASPE

The Bishop having re-embarked, as has been stated, after the two services of Sunday, the 14th July, at Entry Island, reached Cape Cove, after a miserable little voyage enough, before noon on the 16th, and was met upon the beach by the Rev. Mr. Short, as well as by the Rev. Mr. Milne, from the Bay of Chaleurs, who had come over to meet him, some days before, and, as his Lordship also became, was the guest of Mr. Short. The Bishop was now upon well-known ground. Wednesday, the 17th, was fixed upon for the Confirmation at Cape Cove Church. This Church has been long used for service; but the people have not yet been able to bring it to a proper state of completion, and the Consecration of it was once more reluctantly postponed. Twenty persons were confirmed and his Lordship preached, Mr. Milne assisting in the services. On Thursday morning, his Lordship, attended by the two clergymen, proceeded by land to the Church at Percé within the Mission of Mr. Short, where he again preached and confirmed seven persons. The party then partook of the hospitality of the establishment connected with the fishing-trade, belonging to the Great Jersey house of Robin, at present administered by Mr. LaPerelle, and after-