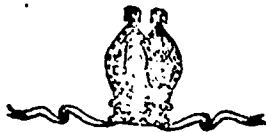


THE CANADIAN ECCLESIASTICAL GAZETTE.



VOL. 2.]

QUEBEC, APRIL 8, 1852.

[No. 11.]

DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

JOURNAL OF THE BISHOP OF QUEBEC DURING HIS LATE CIRCUIT IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS AND COUNTY OF MEGANTIC.

(Concluded from the last number.)

February 13th. A little after noon, his Lordship set out upon his journey for the day, being provided with two light and small sleighs of the simplest and rudest construction, the foremost of which he drove himself, the owner of the horses, (a Mr. Osgood, who had that day communicated for the first time,) bringing his baggage in the other. At Wolfestown, however, fourteen miles from the tavern in Ham, after stopping to bait, the arrangement was changed; and Mr. Osgood drove the Bishop, the other horse being tied behind, to follow. Twelve miles more brought them, by 8 o'clock P. M., to Mr. Lord's upon the side of a lake in Upper Ireland, with whom the Rev. Mr. Wickes, Secretary of the Diocesan Church Society, and temporarily in charge of the Mission, is a boarder. Here, by the kind attentions of Mr. Wickes and the master and mistress of the house, his Lordship was very comfortably accommodated during his stay.

The Mission is an extensive and important one, comprehending the whole of Ireland and Inverness, with parts of Halifax, Wolfestown and Nelson. It contains three Churches, although in a state scarcely fit for Divine worship, and several other stations where service is held. But the whole country is very rough and backward, and many of the settlers are very poor, their transactions being conducted in the way of barter. Mr. Ward, a Catechist and lay-reader, is stationed in Lower Ireland on the confines of Inverness, near to one of the Churches. The Parsonage-house, (not occupied by Mr. Wickes,) is near the Church of Upper Ireland. Mr. Ward has been exceedingly assiduous and efficient in his endeavors to counteract the effects of a vacancy in the Mission, which occurred before the appointment of Mr. Wickes in December last; but, from this vacancy and other causes, the charge has suffered, and a great want is felt of additional missionary labour, to aid in effecting which object some of the people have made the beginning of a subscription-list among themselves. Under these circumstances, the Bishop, having first confided the temporary care of the mission to the zeal of Mr. Wickes, was desirous of visiting the different congregations, in company with that gentleman, himself; and he found matters in apparent train, under the Divine blessing, for better days than the mission has yet seen.

On Thursday the 19th., Mr. Ward arrived at Upper Ireland in the forenoon and the affairs of the Mission were discussed. Service was held in the Church at two o'clock, Mr. Wickes reading the prayers, and Mr. Ward the lessons. The Bishop preached to a congregation of about 70 persons, from Numbers xxx. 2, (the chapter being the first lesson,) and gave an application of the text to the occasion of a meeting which was to follow after service. This meeting was called for the purpose of following up certain measures taken for the proper completion of the Church and the maintenance of worship in the Mission, and several appropriate resolutions were passed, his Lordship being in the chair and Mr. Wickes acting as Secretary. A subscription was commenced upon the spot. The Bishop afterwards visited his old acquaintance Mr. Amos Hall, now upwards of ninety

years of age, who expressed sentiments of faith in the Saviour of sinners, as well as of gratitude for the *goodness and mercy which had followed him all the days of his life*. His Lordship also called upon a widowed daughter-in-law of this patriarch of the settlement, from whom, upon some former occasions, he had received hospitable attentions.

The Bishop had two appointments for Friday the 20th., the former of which was about seven or eight miles off, at the Belcher Range Church in Inverness, near Mr. Ward's, to which Mr. Wickes drove him down and in which upwards of a hundred persons were found assembled. His Lordship preached from Nehem. x. 39, making use of his text to enforce a zeal and regard for the house of God, both in a figurative and a literal sense. He had afterwards some conversation upon the same subject, with one of the Church-wardens. His Lordship then went over, with Mr. Wickes, to partake of some refreshment which Mrs. Ward, who is in very delicate health, had kindly exerted herself to prepare; and the Bishop, Priest and Catechist immediately afterwards drove to a school-house in the Dublin range of the same township, distant five miles and a half, where, by the attendance of the Catechist, *prayer is wont to be made*. About seventy persons were present, and the building, of which one corner was taken off by a partition of rough boards, to hold a bed and a couple of chests, was closely jammed. Eight children were presented for baptism, after the second lesson, at the hands of Mr. Wickes (who had baptized one in the morning service, at the Church.) Care was taken, in the midst of the throng and pressure, as well as the noise of the infants, that all the sponsors should distinctly assume their individual obligations. The Bishop preached from Luke ii. 29-32. Candles were procured for the registration of the baptisms and signatures, in duplicate, of the witnesses. While all this was going on, the Bishop had some conversation with the School-master, apparently a very respectable man who was formerly a Sergeant in the 66th Regt., and his Lordship endeavored to put things in train among some of the heads of families, for procuring aid from the Provincial funds, for the School, the Act passed in which behalf is so framed as to be extraordinarily embarrassing to poor settlers in the woods, and, practically at least, exceedingly partial in the benefits which it professes to dispense. Fifty-two children are on the books of this school, and forty-six in regular attendance. The school-master has a wife and child living with him in the building. Parting here with Mr. Ward, his Lordship and Mr. Wickes went on three miles farther to the house of Mr. Layfield, a house very well known to the travellers on the Gosford Road, where they were hospitably entertained.

On Saturday the 21st., Mr. Wickes set out upon an extensive round of pastoral visits among "the sick and the whole," and the Bishop remained all day engaged in writing, at Mr. Layfield's.

On the 22nd, being Quinquagesima Sunday, his Lordship, after breakfast and devotions with the family, proceeded in a cariole hired for the day, in the first instance to join Mr. Wickes at the Plomer Range Church in Inverness, six miles from Mr. Layfield's, lying north of the Gosford road. The little Church was well filled by a congregation of perhaps not more than seventy persons. The Bishop preached the sermon for the Church Society which, by an established rule,