

at the table of our blessed Lord. Here, too, in administering the sacred elements, the language of the natives was used, and it was no common pleasure and privilege to be permitted by God to unite with many simple-minded believers, in this the most distant station of the Church of Christ in the wilderness, in commemorating the mystery of redeeming love.

"The next day I left them, much refreshed and encouraged by what I had seen; the six hundred miles of my homeward route were accomplished in a fortnight, and I am now once more actively employed in my daily duties at the Red River; for though I have not yet any collegiate building, the work is advancing as regards pupils for the ministry. These take up much of my time, as the labour rests in great measure on myself. I have brought in some with me from the Saskatchewan; one of these, Mr. Henry Budd, the laborious and successful catechist at Cumberland, I hope to ordain the Sunday before Christmas. As the first native to be ordained in the ministry in this country, I would beg for him an especial remembrance in the prayers of the Society. When very many are being admitted into holy orders on that day at home, may I hope that friends at a distance will not be forgetful of our ordination here, when, if God permit, I hope to admit one very faithful labourer to the priesthood, and the *first native Indian* to the holy office of deacon?"

A letter was read from the Rev. John Hobson, dated Shanghai, China, Sept. 12, 1850. The following are extracts:—

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a box of Prayer Books, Tracts, &c., value £10., for use in this port, granted by the venerable Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Accept my very hearty thanks for the same. The arrival of the Prayer Books is most opportune. You will probably, from the papers, have heard of the sad calamity by which our Trinity church has been laid in ruins; at the same time, a great number of Prayer Books were lost or destroyed, so that your grant is doubly welcome. I shall, of course, keep a strict account, and remit you the proceeds of whatever sale I may effect. The books for Seamen's Libraries are very judiciously selected, and will, I feel confident, be both acceptable and useful.

"Deeply interested as you are in every thing connected with the extension of our beloved Church, you will be glad to hear that the British community are taking active measures for the restoration of our church; a sum of nearly 5000 dollars was subscribed in a few days, and the work is now begun, and will, I trust, be completed by January, 1851. In the mean time, our services are held in a large godown, kindly lent us by a resident here. The Christian liberality of our community deserves especial mention; within two years they have freely given 18,500 dollars for Church purposes, viz.: 5000 for half the cost of the church; 8000 to purchase an annuity for the widow and children of the late Rev. J. Loudon; and now, 5000 for the restoration of the church. You will, I am sure, give us your hearty prayers, that the spiritual temple amongst us may daily be increased in strength, beauty, and proportion."

Books and Tracts to the value of £10 were granted for use and distribution in the Diocese of Quebec, on the application of the Rev. J. H. Nicolls, Principal of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Canada East.

January, 1851.

The Standing Committee, in pursuance of notice given at the last General Meeting, proposed that the sum of £500 be voted towards making some special provision for the religious instruction of foreigners and others, who may be expected to visit London during the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations.

The sum of £500 was granted accordingly.

The following letter from the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, dated Bishop's Palace, Calcutta, Nov. 1, 1850, was read to the Board:—

"I beg to present to the Venerable Society twelve copies of a Report of St Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, made on occasion of the third anniversary of its consecration; and I seize with eagerness the opportunity, which I have long desir-

ed, to assure the Society of my continued gratitude for the munificent gift of £5000., which contributed at so opportune a moment to the construction of the sacred edifice, and the establishment of the Endowment Missionary Fund.

"2. All India will thank you. In future ages it will be said, that the first status given to Christianity in the East by a self-supported Cathedral Mission, was most essentially aided by your ancient and Venerable Society.

"3. The buildings are just completed. The beautiful Italian marble (of which a second importation was required) has been laid down, the steps of the Communion enclosure being of the finest white slabs that Leghorn could furnish. A handsome iron railing runs round the Cathedral Close; and five houses for a school and for servants' offices are finished. I have been allowed, also, by the Indian Government, to exchange the former Palace for a new one, immediately adjoining the Close, and in all respects more suitable for a Bishop's residence.

"4. The whole Cathedral is, of course, adapted to our burning climate, and is wanting in the pitched roof, the great western doors and clustered columns of European architecture: but the service of plate for the Holy Communion, presented by Her Majesty: the superb eastern window, with the view of the Crucifixion, given us, under her Majesty's approbation, by the Dean and Canons of Windsor; and the noble statue of Bishop Heber, by Chantrey, which adorns the north transept, are ornaments, as we think, of the highest value, and almost peculiar to ourselves.

"5. But it is to the spiritual and interior blessings of the Gospel of Christ that your Society, as I know, bends all its attention. The preparation and framework are, in themselves, nothing. Thank God, all these highest ends are in, slow indeed but, decided progress.

"(1) The Services of our Protestant National Church have for three years been performed for the benefit of the crowded Christian population, which had been thirsting for twenty-five years for the waters of life.

"(2) The early daily prayers, and the solemnities of Ordination and Confirmation in the ample chancel, together with our Cathedral forms of worship, recall England and its Cathedrals to our fond recollections.

"(2.) Nor is the incipient Mission under the Reverend the Missionary and assistant Missionary, wanting in immediate interest. Three native schools, and the instruction given in bazaars, not to mention important aid in the work of translation, are full of hope even already.

"6. Her Majesty's Charter of Incorporation will, I trust, soon be obtained. And if the period should ever arrive when a native Bishop, supported by a Chapter of learned and pious Canons, shall behold the Cathedral filled from end to end with inquirers and converts hanging on the lips of the Bengali preacher, and joining in the responses of our Evangelical Liturgy, these our early and feeble beginnings will be looked back upon with gratitude to God for all who have aided in the mighty work.

"But the future is with God alone. All real success is from Him; and to Him be all the glory, through Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

"Intresting the continuance of your affectionate and earnest prayers, I remain, with duty and respect to your President, Vice-President, and Members, &c."

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Capetown, dated Fort Hare, Sep. 28, 1850. The following are extracts:—

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters, of April 13th, and July 5th; the latter, in reply to one written by me from Bloem-fontein, in the early part of the Visitation which I am now making, and which it will still take three months to complete. I feel much indebted to the Society for their liberal grants towards the churches at Beaufort and Bloem-fontein. At the latter place they have already about £750 in hand, and they are very anxious to proceed with the erection of their church. I was enabled to send them a