

FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE.

Of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for 1836.

Extracts from Archdeacon Wix's Journal, concluded.

NEW FOUNDLAND.

Sunday, April 26.—The wind having abated in the night, J. Beaufit and his neighbours were up at four, A. M., and rowed me through 'the young ice,' which, from the frost at night, was, in some places, very thick, to Fachieu Harbour, Fachieu Bay. Here lives a respectable widower, with a little family of children, whom he endeavours to bring up religiously. Another man, with his wife and family, are also living here in idleness, and disregard of all religious duties. He declared, at once, a disinclination on the part of himself and family to profit by my services; the widower, therefore engaged to follow me to Muddy Hole, the next settlement in my line of visits, considering suggesting that I might make more expedition, and fulfil my objects better by availing myself of the present mild day, than by staying to hold service in his single family. On this we proceeded to Muddy Hole, three miles. A few hundred yards from the mouth of the harbour, we met J. W. the principal planter. He was on his way to Fachieu Bay for 'stuff,' or wood, with three daughters and a son, in a punt. He was informed of the arrival of a Clergyman of his own Church; but I grieve to say, that though he was the father of ten unbaptized children, he declined giving up the secular work by which he was profaning the Lord's day, and did not even make the offer of his house for prayers during his absence. On reaching Muddy Hole, which is a singular little gut behind a rock, and makes no show from the sea, we tried to get admittance for service in the house of another professed member of the Church, J. F. He, however, though the sun was now high, was still in bed, and the other inmates of his house were only dressing themselves. This heathenish man, on being told the object of my visit, refused to get up; he 'did not think prayers of any use!' Thus repulsed, I proceeded. On arriving at Richard's Harbour, about a league farther on, I found that one of those scourges of this coast, a floating frog shop, under the name of a 'trading vessel,' had been sojourning in Muddy Hole, last week, and had kept 'all hands,' during the time of its stay, in a state of intoxication; and it was likely now, that they had not a stick to burn, or a fish for the kettle; and, as this floating nuisance had only left the place the day before, it was not unlikely that the fumes of the intoxicating poisons thus supplied, had not yet evaporated.

Having spent the whole preceding week in idleness, and dissipation, and excess, they grudged the Almighty this His own day of rest. The singular indifference of these sad people was now explained. If God should ever give them the privilege of another visit from a Missionary, I pray they may be better disposed to hear meekly God's word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. This instance of heathenism stands almost alone in my experience. I cannot say, quite alone; for I record with pain, that in another part of Fortune Bay, on the other side of Harbour Boston, a youth, whose uncle was urging him to kneel, during the public prayers, almost disturbed the service by the loud strain in which he gave utterance to the rude and godless remark, that he was not disposed to wear out his knees by praying! Surely, the next generation is likely to suffer much deterioration in settlements such as these, unless the Missionary shall shortly be supplied to them, who may go among them with affectionate anxiety, and warn them of the peril of their present carelessness.

How different were the manners of the people of Richard's Harbour, at which we now arrived, and where we obtained some refreshment, of which my kind crew, after their long row, were much in need. John Hardy, a former parishioner of the Rev. — Jolloffe, of Poole, had lived forty years in Newfoundland, during the greater part of which time, he had regularly employed himself, on Sunday, in reading prayers and a sermon to the families around him. For this occupation he was preparing at the moment of my arrival. He gladly ceded his office to the commissioned minister, and we had two full services, and

eight baptisms. Among many other good books in this house, were 'Bishop Wilson's Introduction to the Lord's Supper,' and 'Stanhope's Meditations for the Sick,' with the stamp of the Christian Knowledge Society. Among the children baptized were three belonging to a widow, who would soon become the mother of a fourth. I had observed, that some reflections in my morning discourse on the occasional suddenness of death, seriously affected her, and I found, that her husband had, only in February last, died in a manner awfully afflicting. On his return from deer hunting, he had fallen down one of the cliffs, which were then within sight of our window; these are stupendously high upon this part of the coast: he had fallen 200 feet at least, without any break to his fall, and had breathed his last within a few hours."

Extracts from a Journal of a Visit to the South-east Coast of Nova-Scotia, in the months of December and January, 1835-6, by the Rev. John Stevenson, A. M.

December 16, 1835.—Departed from King's College, accompanied by Mr. H. Hamilton, A. B., a candidate for holy orders. On the 16th we sailed from Halifax in a small shallop, while the thermometer was 8° below Zero; and arrived, without any accident, at the mouth of Sheet Harbour on the evening of the 19th. Our course being here obstructed by ice, we stepped out of the vessel, and walked up the harbour to arrange for divine service on the following day. We had nearly six miles to travel on newly-formed ice after night overtook us, which was a difficult and dangerous enterprise.

Sunday, 20th, I performed three distinct services, two in the meeting-house, and one in a more remote part of the settlements. On each occasion I was attended by fair congregations. Mr. Jackson, the Society's late catechist, has closed a pious and inoffensive life: his place is now supplied by one of the Presbyterian deacons, who still adheres to the offices and forms of our liturgy. This denomination having no provision of its own for public worship, in the absence of an officiating minister, has here, with the consent of their Minister, adopted the service of our Church, for which they entertain great reverence and admiration. This is the only station upon the shore where the members of the Church are in the minority; and its cause may be traced to the circumstance of the Presbyterian ministers having long

preoccupied the ground. 21st, was so severe a day that I could neither proceed on my journey, nor reassemble the inhabitants for worship. I devoted much attention to an aged woman, confined for years to a sick bed, and was enabled to raise her hopes, and soothe her afflictions, through the promises of the Gospel; but she was deprived of the highest consolation of religion, the pledge of our Redeemer's dying love, from the want of wine. Several persons accompanied me from hence, as I returned, on a perilous expedition to Pope's Harbour, to enjoy an opportunity of participating in the blessed Sacrament.

22d.—We departed at daylight, and did not reach Beaver Harbour until three o'clock, after great exertion wading through deep, untrodden snow. The kind people were surprised and overjoyed to see a Missionary at this unusual and inclement season. In the evening I had recovered sufficiently from the effects of my journey, to hold divine service. The whole population, old and young, collected, and hung around me till a late hour. The old, I exhorted, the young I catechised; all knelt in prayer. The children acquitted themselves well, and reflect credit upon Miss Winter, the only qualified person in the place, who acts as reader and mistress of a Sunday school. In these pious exercises the night passed delightfully and profitably away, and beguiled us of the fatigues of the day. The inhabitants are the descendants of Dutch Presbyterians; but most of them have conformed to the Church, and been confirmed. The wavering principles of many were settled and determined by the late confirmations on the shore; and in the lives of still more, I trust and believe, the salutary fruits have appeared.

23d and 24th, were spent in the same manner, travelling by day and officiating at night. In our progress downwards, through the several stations, appointments were made for divine service at each of our turn.

25th.—Morning service was held at Mary Joseph, and evening at Nekum Secum, the adjoining settlement. No former Christmas had been hallowed at either of these places by public worship; and it was satisfactory to see the people disposed to attend divine service both on this occasion, and for the future, in preference to the usual scenes of revelry. I have long looked in vain for some fruits of my ministry here, but at length I have reason to hope, the word of God has reached the hearts of numbers. On this day I was listened to not only with fixed attention, but with strong emotion. The preparation previous to confirmation, and the confirmation itself, had produced a very good effect. The people are become desirous of educating their children, and employed a Teacher, whom your Lordship kindly supplied with books, during part of last winter. As no single station, however, is capable of maintaining a permanent school-master, an itinerant master is about to be employed, who will be required to distribute his time, in stated periods, among several places in succession. It may convey some notion of the extreme indigence of these parts to relate, that the late master has not yet received his full fees, although his quarter's salary, for twenty pupils, amounted only to twelve dollars, out of which he had to board himself. We spent the night very miserably, in a small unpartitioned log hut, crowded with three different families.

26th.—Rained, without intermission, the whole day. We were obliged, nevertheless, to advance on our journey, and fulfil our appointment. We reached Nekum Cough for breakfast, after full three hours' heavy and uncomfortable walking through dissolving snow. In consequence of the unfavourable day, we had but a small congregation. John Smith is the principal inhabitant; he has a large family, and five of his sons are married, and settled around him. The father adheres to the profession of his ancestors, who were Presbyterians; but his family have attached themselves to the Church, have been confirmed, and mostly become communicants. The eldest son officiates as lay-reader.

We set out for Quoddy immediately after service, where we had several engagements for the approaching Sabbath. The path, of about nine miles' extent, lay partly through the woods, and partly over the sea, now deeply covered with rain and snow water above the ice. Night came on while we were thus walking upon the sea, and we must certainly have been lost but for a skilful guide, who happened to be with us, and directed our course to the shore. We arrived at Quoddy, thank God! without any accident, and awoke next morning quite refreshed, and prepared for duty.

27th.—Sunday morning, the storm continued; and my hearers, exceeding sixty in number, were thoroughly wet in coming to hear me. When a Missionary, they said, had come so far, at such a season, to visit them, they could not allow any temporary inconvenience from the weather to prevent them from meeting him: nor did they part with me here, but attended me, in a large body, through the services, at the two next stations. At three o'clock we arrived at the house of Leonard Baker, where there was an appointment for the afternoon; but just as we entered the door, his wife, from perfect health, was suddenly struck speechless by apoplexy. She was immediately relieved by one of the company, which afforded temporary relief, but failed to restore her paralyzed power. The poor woman, now more composed, having signified a desire that divine worship should proceed, I delivered an address suited to the occasion, from the words, "Watch and pray, for ye know not when the time is." It was altogether a most moving scene. Stretched before us lay the afflicted woman, deprived of speech and motion by the sudden visitation of God. Around were weeping friends and sympathising neighbours. All were now repeating or singing psalms of praise; now prostrating themselves, in fervent supplications, before the throne of Divine mercy. Under such awful and affecting circumstances, it required little "excellency of speech and of wisdom" to excite and impress the spectators. May the feelings and resolutions thus awakened be sanctified and strengthened by divine grace! Still followed by my hearers, who continued to increase as we advanced, I hastened to observe my third engagement at Mr. Whitney's, of Salmon River, where our pious exercises did not terminate till ten o'clock.