

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

79, Pall Mall, Jan. 11, 1851.

The Society has recently received the following letter from one of the first two English Clergymen who have undertaken, for the Gospel's sake, to encounter danger and privations on the coast of Labrador.

"Harbor Grace, Newfoundland,
2d Nov. 1850

"MY DEAR MR. HAWKINS.—In accordance with the direction contained in your letter received the day I left Greenock for Labrador, I send you a few hasty notices of my proceedings in my Mission.

"I arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland, on 20th May, after a pleasant passage of eleven days, in which we had one or two escapes, thank God, of running into icebergs in the fog.

"I met a most kind and hospitable reception from the Bishop and found him as usual immersed in business. After a detention of exactly a fortnight at St. John's, I sailed in one of Messrs. C. & E. Hunt's vessels, the 'Cheetah,' for St. Francis' Harbour, Labrador, which during last summer was my head quarters.

"I here found an establishment of Messrs. C. & E. Hunt of Winchester Street, London, in which a considerable number of Eskimaux families are employed; and their comfortable houses, good clothing, and generally their happy appearance and good conduct, do the greatest credit to Messrs. Hunt and their active and zealous agent, Mr. Saunders, and his estimable lady.

"How much more prudent and politic—how much more humane and Christian is it, to treat the natives of any country in which English Merchants carry on their business thus, than, as is too often the case to drive them away—to exterminate them, it may be! Generally it is very difficult to make them give up their roving and bad habits, 'received by tradition from their fathers'; but such fair, kind treatment as the Eskimaux meet with at St. Francis' Harbour and Sandwich Bay (where the Messrs. Hunt have another establishment, with a larger number of Eskimaux in their employment than at St. Francis' Harbour)—such treatment will not fail in any country to convert the natives from foes into useful traders or dealers.

"The number of Englishmen who have married Eskimaux women, from time to time, is very considerable; and this also produces a good feeling between us and the Eskimaux, and has prepared and made ready the way for spreading Christianity among the Eskimaux scattered through Labrador and all the northern parts of America.

"As a consequence of these favourable circumstances, I found the Eskimaux women and children,—many of whom had been baptized by the Bishop and the Clergymen who attended his Lordship two years ago to Labrador,—more anxious to receive instruction. I opened school the first Sunday I was at St. Francis' Harbour; and though none of the people from Newfoundland had at that time reached Labrador, I had a large school, chiefly Eskimaux. On each Wednesday and Friday, during my stay at St. Francis' Harbour, I kept school, and the Eskimaux women and children attended it, some of them coming from a considerable distance. They showed the greatest anxiety to learn to speak and read English.

"I have a district of about two hundred miles of coast under my care. For there is no Clergyman or schoolmaster from Red Bay, the extremity of Mr. Gifford's Mission, to Hopedale, the most southern of the Moravian settlements, a distance of more than three hundred miles. I have a population during summer of more than ten thousand, with a resident winter population in my own immediate Mission, (which consists of Henley Harbour, Cape Charles, Battle Harbour, St. Francis' Harbour, Venison Island, and Seal Islands, and about twenty other considerable harbours,) of about six hundred. I cannot, therefore, afford to devote as much time as I wish to the teaching of the Eskimaux. I trust, however, please God, next summer to see a good boys' and girls' boarding and day school established at Battle Harbour, which is to be the head-quarters of the Mission; and at which a house has been begun, to be used at first as a school-house, until a house in a more convenient situation shall be built for the school, when the present one is to be used as a parsonage. I need not tell you that there was neither church, school-house, nor parsonage, belonging to the Church, (or indeed, belonging to any religious denomination, except at the Moravian settlements at Hopedale, Nain, Hebron, and Okkak, two, three, and four hundred miles to the north,) in Labrador, and all these have to be provided. With the aid of Messrs. Hunt and Messrs. T. and D. Slade of Poole, who have establishments at Battle Harbour and Venison Island, churches at Battle and St. Francis' Harbours will, I hope, be finished next year, please God: that at St. Francis' Harbour was commenced on the 3rd September, and I hope it is now progressing rapidly, and also the school-house above mentioned at Battle Harbour.

"I give you a list of the Subscribers to the Mission:

Messrs. C. & E. Hunt, London (annually)	£50 0 0
Messrs. T. & E. Slade, Poole	50 0 0
John Barlow, Esq.	1 0 0
Robert A. Disney, Esq.	1 0 0
Lambert Disney, Esq.	1 0 0
J. Tunbridge, Esq., Deputy Ordnance Store-keeper, St. John's, Newfoundland	1 0 6
Robert Ayles, Esq., Carbonara, Newfoundland	1 0 0

A very considerable number of the fishermen promised to subscribe quantities of fish; and Messrs. Saunders, Bush-Bendell, Howe, Reynolds, Davis, and others, promised to receive their contributions and to convert them into money.

"I ought to mention that I visited all the harbours (except one or two minor ones) from Henley Harbour to Sandwich Bay, most of which had never before been visited by a clergyman—above twenty. I had large congregations at eight different places in stores provided by the merchants or planters. I administered the Lord's Supper at five different places. I admitted fifty persons into the Church by baptism, and married nine couples. Considering that the Bishop had last year and the year before admitted so large a number, it will be seen from the above statement how important the Mission to Labrador is likely to prove. I sailed or rowed in a whale boat many hundred miles, and both on Sundays and week days I was incessantly occupied with teaching and preaching, visiting the sick, dispensing medicines, &c.

"Yours very truly,
HENRY P. DISNEY.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

January, 1851.

The Lord Bishop of London in the Chair.

The Lord Bishop of Bombay was present.

The Standing Committee proposed the undermentioned Members of the Society, for election, on the 4th of February, as the Committee of General Literature and Education for the year ensuing:—

Very Rev. the Dean of Chichester, J. L. Adolphus, Esq., Ven. Archdeacon Allen, Thomas Bell, Esq., Rev. R. W. Browne, Rev. F. C. Cook, Rev. Thomas Dale, Rev. T. G. Hall, Rev. Dr. Hessey, Rev. J. G. Lonsdale, John Diston Powles, Esq., Dr. Thomas Watson.

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 Secretaries stated, that a book has been opened in this Office for the receipt of contributions towards this fund.

A letter was read from Arther H. Dyke Aeland, Esq., Killerton, near Exeter, offering £10 towards the above object, and saying that, if, when the time comes, more is needed, he hopes to be able to add a little more.

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

"1. 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 desired, 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 Chantry, 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.

"(3) Nor is the incipient Mission under the Rev. the Missionary and assistant Missionary, wanting in immediate interest. Three native schools, and the instructions 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 native 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 Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Copies of the Report of the Cathedral were laid before the Board. It was agreed to thank the Bishop for these.

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Capetown dated Fort Hare, Sept. 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 Bloemfontein, 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 Bloemfontein. At the latter place they have already about £750 in hand, and they are very anxious to proceed with their erection of their church. I was enabled to send them a Clergyman a few months ago. I have also to thank the Society for the grants of £75 towards the church at Maritzburg, the capital of Natal, and £50 for Swellendam.

"I am ashamed that all my letters to the Society should be taken up with bringing before them the wants of my Diocese with a view to obtain assistance. You may take, however, some comfort from the thought that it will not last long. The peculiar circumstances of the country have led to the applications being made all at once. Ours is not a new colony. The villages and towns are of old standing. But scarce one of them had an English Church. Wattle-and-daub buildings would not do for them. On the arrival of a Bishop an impulse was given every where. All determined to have churches and Clergymen, and all at once.—When, therefore, a few more cases shall have been brought under the Society's notice, I trust I shall cease to be so importunate a beggar. When the district towns are supplied, we shall scarce hope for any thing more.

"I have now to bring under the notice of the Board the state of Port Elizabeth. That is, perhaps, the most rising town in the colony. It is the port of the Eastern Province, and rapidly becoming the most influential place in the Diocese. We have there a church which will hold 400. Almost all the pews in

the church are let. During my late Visitation about £500 was raised towards the erection of a second church, to be entirely free. I encouraged them to hope that the Society would help them. A committee, has been formed which is still collecting funds. I have recommended them to begin with a nave of a church to which aisles and chancel may be added. The whole when completed will probably accommodate between 400 and 500: the part now to be completed about 250. The cost about £1200. The people have readily undertaken to support their own pastor. This will be done through the weekly offertory. They are fully aware that my means are quite exhausted, and that I cannot maintain an additional Minister. If the Board would make a grant towards the erection of this church I should feel much indebted to them.

"I shall hereafter have to ask for assistance towards churches at Cradock, Somerset, Capetown, and perhaps Stellenbosch. After these shall be built, I think applications will be very rare. I am not aware of any other churches in contemplation in the colony.

"I have to thank the Board for the grant of one dozen sets of Book for the performance of Divine Service in new churches; they will be highly acceptable; also for 600 copies of the Bible in Dutch, which shall be disposed of as you suggest. I shall be glad to receive the new translation of the Prayer Book in Dutch.

"At a meeting of the Clergy of the Archdeaconry of Graham's Town last week, steps were taken to extend the circulation of the Society's publications throughout the Eastern Province. I hope before long there will be a considerable depot in Graham's Town, with branch depots in every parish. There is a great demand for Bibles and Prayer Books of all sizes, which at present unfortunately there is no means for meeting. I am thankful to say that I see much to encourage us in this part of the Diocese. There is a good work going on in many places; still there are districts utterly destitute, which I cannot supply.

"I think I mentioned in a former letter, that it is far from impossible that I may visit England next year, with a view to raise the means, and select the men, for an extensive Mission work in Natal, and in British Kaffraria. The time has arrived for entering upon this work in earnest. We may no longer hold back without sin."

It was agreed that £200 be granted towards a second church at Port Elizabeth.

A letter was read from Archdeacon Merriman, dated Graham's Town, Cape of Good Hope, Sept. 2, 1850, saying, that the Lending Library, furnished by the Society for that place, is in active operation, and likely to prove most beneficial and acceptable. He added:—

"The Bible and Prayer Book which the Society kindly gave me to officiate from on board-ship, are in use for our regimental service at Fort England, where we have on every Sunday afternoon a very cheering congregation of voluntary attendants among the soldiers of the 91st (five of whom, besides the Colonel, communicated with us at St. George's yesterday), besides soldiers' wives and several civilians who are unable to get so far as the church is from these barracks. Our depot of the Christian Knowledge Society is just being removed from Mr. Heavysides to the care of Mr. Colin Campbell.

"With every good wish that an abundant blessing may rest upon the good seed sown through your Society, I am, &c.

A letter was read from Colin T. Campbell, Esq., dated Graham's Town, October 12, 1850. The following are extracts:—

"I have the honour to inform you, that at a meeting of the clergy of this Archdeaconry, held here during the Bishop's stay in Graham's Town, whilst on Visitation in September last, it was agreed to revive the Auxiliary Branch of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, to form a depot here for the Society's publications, and to resume its operations. I was appointed Secretary to the Committee, and have undertaken the management of the whole affairs of the Society, and of the sale of its publications.

"During the Bishop's stay here there was an Ordination of four Priests and one Deacon. His Lordship had experienced many trials, and suffered much hardship, in the course of his arduous and laborious Visitation over the furthestmost parts of the Colony, Natal and Caffreland, rendered still more perilous and difficult by the badness of roads and the excessive drought which has universally prevailed and still prevails. His stay here was not however, without, I believe and hope, some signs of God's blessing on his Lordship's exertions, and on the well-directed efforts of his Clergy in these parts; and, I trust, the benefit of the Bishop's presence amongst us was not altogether lost or useless, and that we are not insensible to the great mercy of God who has preserved him to us in all his perils and trials.

"There are lately rumours of another Caffre war, some of whom assume a serious appearance; but I apprehend there is no ground for immediate alarm, though the starving condition of the people throughout the whole of Kaffraria is sufficient to cause them through desperation to seek by plunder the means of subsistence. We pray daily God may avert us from the evils of war, and dispose our hearts to succour and relieve the pressing wants of the suffering and distressed."

The Lord Bishop of Fredericton, in a letter dated Fredericton, Nov. 20, 1850, wrote as follows:—

"On Monday, Nov. 11, one of those frightful fires which so often take place in our wooden cities raged in Fredericton, borne on by a strong north-west wind, and 122 houses were totally destroyed in a few hours. The churches happily escaped. It was feared at one time that the whole town would be destroyed. This calamity will obviously throw us back in money matters, for the merchants will require all they can get to rebuild their stores. I hope it may eventually do good by learning them to build of brick or stone. We are at present organizing committees for the relief of the sufferers.

"We have all heard with deep regret of our loss in the death of the venerable and excellent Bishop of Nova Scotia. It was a great gratification to me to be the last Bishop who assisted him at Halifax, just before he went to England. The Bishop of Newfoundland visited Cape Breton after he had sailed. May it please God to dispose men's hearts to send out a worthy successor—such a man as has already been sent to Montreal!"

His Lordship, in a letter, dated December 4, 1850, said:—

"I return my very grateful thanks to the Society for its kindness in adding to the grant for the Cathedral. You will easily suppose what trouble the sad fire had thrown us into. However the inhabitants have come forward with energy and liberality; the sum of £500 has been at once subscribed for the relief of the sufferers, and an active committee is at work.

I am also in great hopes that most of the former wooden houses will be replaced by brick or stone, so that good will come out of evil."

The Rev. C. J. Shreve, Missionary at Guysborough, Halifax, Nova Scotia, informed the Society, in a letter dated Nov. 19, 1850, that for some time past he had been anxious to build a church at the Intervale, distant ten miles from his parish church.

"I meet at the Intervale," says Mr. Shreve, "a large congregation, which the small school house inconveniently situated, can scarcely accommodate. The time has arrived when, in the interests of the Church, a house dedicated to the service of God ought to be erected in that neighbourhood. The members of the Church are very desirous of having a church, and delighted at the prospect of one being erected—land was readily given for the purpose. We shall require about £100 besides the labour of the people, and they look to me to obtain the money which will be needed. If the Society would give me £50 for this very poor settlement, where it is next to impossible to obtain money I would make an effort to collect the remaining sum required. Without this aid from the venerable Society, I fear that we could not attempt the work, which would be a grievous disappointment to me, and to those poor but willing people."

It was agreed to grant £50 towards this church.

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Barbados, dated Bishop's Court, Barbados, Nov. 29, 1850, introducing to the Secretaries the Rev. R. Rawle, Principal of Codrington College, and recommending to the favourable notice of the Society the following objects:—

"1. A mission to Western Africa from the West Indian Church.

"2. The erection of a school room for a preparatory and commercial school, in connexion with the College at Codrington.

"3. The erection of a school-house for a model infant school near Bridgetown."

It was agreed that £50 be granted towards the Infant School.

Mr. Rawle, who was present, explained the objects of the proposed mission from the Church in the West Indies to Western Africa. This mission had been projected by the Barbados Church Society, with the cordial approval of the Lord Bishop of Barbados, and it had been resolved to invite the co-operation and support of the other West Indian dioceses, as well as of Churchmen in this country; it being intended to convey the knowledge of Christ, and the blessings of his Gospel, to the Gold and Slave Coasts, and the kingdoms of Ashantee and Dahomey; and to extend the work, should it be prospered, beyond the Kong mountains, and onwards from the Niger to the Nile, if not to Loango on the south.

A. B. Sheppard, Esq., applied for a grant of small books and prints for the use of the Coolie School of Infants in George Town, Demarara, the establishment of which was lately promoted by the Society. Mr. Sheppard inclosed portions of a letter on this subject from the Rev. Hyndman Jones, late Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, now Cathedral Curate at George Town. The following are extracts:—

"We have a Coolie School established, containing 70 children, the greater part orphans, whose parents have perished in the colony. The Church of England has taken it up, and has claimed the privilege of visiting and regulating the instruction of the school; so the burden of the support has fallen upon us. The children are intelligent, and make wonderful progress, and some of them are being perfected in their own language, as well as taught English, in order to set hereafter as interpreters here, or in their native lands. It would do your heart good to see the children, with their little dark faces, marching round the room, singing the airs which are familiar to our own children at home. They are brought over here in the grossest ignorance, and given up to the most degrading superstitions; so that to instruct them is a strictly Missionary work.

"This attempt to instruct the Coolies is the only systematic effort that has been made, and I feel it a very important duty, and shall proceed heartily, with the hope, through God's blessing, some permanent good may result. As Garrison Chaplain, I have the charge of an African regiment, and among them are representatives of no less than twelve different tribes, all speaking different languages, and not understanding any one of them. They are ignorant, and utterly unacquainted with European ideas; with these I find pictorial teaching of great use; so, if you can send me any new or stray numbers of religious or general prints, or small books with pictures, for prizes, presents, or rewards, you will be doing me good service."

It was agreed that prints and elementary books to the value of £5 be granted.

300 Spanish Prayer Books, and 100 Arabic Prayer Books, were placed at the disposal of the Lord Bishop of Gibraltar.

Several grants of Books, Tracts, &c., were then made.

A letter was read from J. Cassels, Esq., Oporto, saying that he has a translation of "Family Prayers," No. 26, and "The Duty of Family Prayer," No. 342, into Portuguese, and inquiring whether the Society would undertake the publication of them.

It was agreed that they be published. Several letters of acknowledgment, including letters from the Lord Bishop of Jamaica, and Archdeacon Smith of Jamaica, were laid before the meeting.

The Lord Bishop of London alluded to the death of the Rev. H. H. Norris, and bore testimony to the services which that venerable clergyman had rendered to the Society, to other kindred societies, and to the Church at large. His Lordship also adverted to the loss which this Institution had very recently sustained by the death of the Rev. Allen Cooper, who for a long period had been a constant attendant at the meetings of the Standing Committee and Board, and had done much towards promoting the Society's objects.

The Rev. H. Bailey, B.D., Warden of the Missionary College of St. Augustine, Canterbury, forwarded for the Society's library the Calendar of that College for the year of our Lord 1851.

Books were granted for the performance of Divine Service in six new Churches and Chapels, and five licensed School-rooms. Sixty-five grants of Books and Tracts were made for Schools, for Lending Libraries, and for distribution.

The *Christian Times*, dissenting paper, states that Sir Culling Eardley, with some others, having transmitted an address, signed by 1,800 of the inhabitants