

EAST INDIES.

From the Ecclesiastical Gazette.

"Ecclesiastical Department, No. 1 of 1840.

"To our Governor-General of India in Council.

"Par. 1. We now reply to your letter in this department, dated the 10th July, No. 2 of 1839, in which you submit for our sanction the proposal of the Lord Bishop to erect a new Cathedral in Calcutta, by public subscription, on a piece of ground given by the Government, and his request that we should contribute two lacs of rupees for that object.

"2. The present Church accommodation at Calcutta is clearly insufficient, and it has been admitted by us to be the duty of Government adequately to provide for its civil and military functionaries the means and services of our religion. Consistently with this principle, and understanding that the intention of making alterations in the present Cathedral, at the charge of Government, is abandoned, we authorize the expenditure, subject to such conditions as you may deem expedient, of a sum not exceeding one lac and a half of Company's rupees in providing another Church for the accommodation of from 800 to 1000 persons, as contemplated when you granted the site. We observe with regret from the Bishop's address upon the occasion of laying the first stone, that alterations in the original design would limit the number to be accommodated to 600 persons. We cannot approve of the reduction, and must require, as the positive condition of any public grant, that accommodation be provided for at least 800, and if possible 1000. If by the aid of the Lord Bishop's munificence, and other private subscriptions, the Church, which is wanted, can be so constructed and fitted as to become a suitable cathedral, we offer no objection to that arrangement; but you must distinctly understand that the grant which we now authorize you to appropriate to this object is to be final. In becoming parties to the arrangement, you must take care that sufficient funds are reserved from the amount subscribed to meet the charge of any servants or establishment required beyond two Chaplains, which, as being necessary for a new Church, it is our intention to appoint.

" (Signed by the directors.)

(" True Extract.—D. C. ")

" Simla, June 18th, 1840.

"To the Right Hon the Governor-General in Council.

"My Lord, - 1. I have the honour of acknowledging Mr. Secretary Bushby's letter of the date of May 20th, inclosing a copy of a dispatch from the Hon. the Court of Directors to your Lordship, dated March 17th, which authorizes a grant of a lakh and a half of rupees, on such conditions as you may deem expedient, in providing another Church in Calcutta for the accommodation of from 800 to 1000 persons.

"2. I will beg you to assure the Hon. Court of my lively gratitude for this munificent proof of their regard to religion, and of their approbation of my great undertaking. Never since I arrived in my diocese (now nearly eight years) have I received so marked and distinguished a favour from the hands of Government.

"3. Nor is the manner in which the boon has been bestowed less grateful to me than the gift.—The recognition once again of 'the duty of Government adequately to provide for its civil and military functionaries the means and services of our religion,' is a strong topic of consolation to my anxious mind, and will lead me to advert to our present destitution of Chaplains before I conclude. The admission also of the clear insufficiency of the present Church accommodation; the permission of my constructing and fitting up the new Church so as to become a suitable Cathedral; the demand upon me to recur to the magnitude originally contemplated when the site was granted; the appointment of two new Chaplains; the confirmation of the gift of the site as the last encroachment which will be allowed on the Esplanade; and the notice, without objection, though the Government itself stand apart, of the 'various pious and be-

novolent labours amongst the surrounding native population by a body of Missionary Clergy,' which the Bishop contemplates; every one of these particulars enhances the value of the grant.

"4. Indeed, when the price of the site itself is considered (at least 60,000 b. ks.) and the demand upon my Endowment Fund which must have been made in perpetuity, if new Chaplains had not been appointed, and which is now saved, i. e. the interest of two lakhs, I am not wrong, I think in computing the whole gift of the Hon. Company as being worth to me four lakhs of rupees at the least.

"5. The impression of gratitude upon my mind is deeper, because, with the extraordinary expenses likely to press upon the Hon. Company from the military operations on the Indus and in other quarters, I was fully prepared to expect that my suit could not have been complied with. And now I am unexpectedly called on—and that on the very anniversary of my first issuing my proposals, June 18th, 1839—to tender my thanks, in the name of the Christianity of India for the fulfillment of my most sanguine wishes.

"6. I mentioned in paragraph three above, that I would take the liberty of adverting to our destitution of Chaplains. The truth is, we have never, since I have been in the diocese, been in so deplorable a state. Our situation has become aggravated since my letter to your Lordship of February 14th last, in reply to the inquiries sent out from home.

"7. We have now, in June, 1840, forty-one names on my list of the Bengal Establishment for 1810.—Of these, only 24 are in the field of duty; 8 being on furlough or resigned, 5 more on sick leave, 2 deceased, 1 suspended, and 1 with me as Domestic Chaplain. Several retirements home, after the period of service completed, or on sick leave, impend, besides those 17 inefficient Chaplains already mentioned, five, I believe, at the least, which will still further reduce our number.

"8. There are now 12 stations of those allowed by the Governor-General vacant, and 15 or 16 new stations of those contemplated by the Hon. Court's dispatch of August 1836 unsupplied, making 27 or 28 altogether.

"9. I venture to submit this deplorable state of things, that the Hon. Court may have the goodness (1.) to appoint at once the two Chaplains destined for the new Cathedral; (2.) to fill up as rapidly as may be the vacancies which occur in the present Establishment at the ratio of 2 and 1 for each such vacancy; (3.) and to increase the Bengal Establishment to such a number of Chaplains as may suffice for the 32 old stations and the 16 new ones; i. e. 53 in the fields of service—five of the old stations requiring two chaplains each.

"10. It is extremely presumptuous in me to prefer such a large request, but the necessities of the diocese embolden me to do so, as well as the assurance in the letter now under acknowledgment of the Hon. Company's solicitude to supply adequate means for the public worship of Almighty God to their civil and military services.

"11. The unspeakable importance of devout, learned, amiable, orthodox, and influential Chaplains (and none but such would I ask for) in the stations of the Heathen and Mohammedan country, can only be estimated by those, who, like your Lordship and most of the members of the Hon. Court, have witnessed what India is, and know the immediate connection between moral and religious principle, and the high and honourable discharge of the functions entrusted to their civil and military servants in this vast and important empire.

"12. With the renewed acknowledgment of my obligations for the grant to the new Cathedral,

"I have the honour to be, &c.

" (Signed)

" D. CALCUTTA."

(" True Extract.—D. C. ")

"The Church," says the Rev. Dr. Jarvis in his parochial report, "in her Apostolic and Catholic character, is the only barrier against the growing spirit of Sectarianism. But unless we ourselves up-

hold the institutions of our Lord and his Apostles in their purity, that barrier will be greatly weakened. It is not the numbers, but the spiritual mindedness, the holy zeal, the ardent charity of those who profess and call themselves Churchmen, a name synonymous with Catholic Christians, which can build the waste places, and cause the moral desert of the world to blossom as the rose."—*Ban. of Cross.*

RELIGIOUS MISCELLANY.

PITCAIRN'S ISLAND.

Mr. Emmons has given us quite an interesting account of the present state and condition of this island which is now, we presume, very often visited by whale-men; he was there in 1839. John Adams the father of the island, he says, is dead, but name and memory are perpetuated; and the manuscript of the verses now before us is in handwriting of a John Adams, a lad of eleven years of age, whose proficiency in penmanship would compare with that of boys of a similar age in our public schools—which may therefore be regarded as a favourable index of the state of education so remote a region.

The history of this island is doubtless in the remembrance of most of our readers, Captain Arthur's account of it having appeared in the *Inquirer* several years ago, and frequent allusion having been made to it since, in books of naval exploits, &c. It is situated in lat. 25° S. and long. 139° 35' W. It is a high island of table-land in the midst of the ocean, without anchorage or harbour of any kind—the shore being exceedingly bold, so that ships can sail immediately under it; and in extent is not more than 1½ miles in any direction; consequently, its productions are limited; there is no pasturage, very little fish, or fowl: vegetable food, therefore, forms the principal support of its inhabitants.

How such a spot should be selected for the habitation of man would seem surprising, did we forget the remarkable manner in which our own island of New Caledonia was originally populated, which is still a matter of wonderment with those who know nothing of local advantages, and the high spirit of enterprise which has ever marked the onward course of its people. Necessity drove John Smith, alias John Adams to this land of desolation—no doubt a very painful one to him! Having been the principal actor in the tragedy on board the British ship "Bounty," he sought refuge in this hitherto unheard of region; here remained with his associates in perfect seclusion, undiscovered for a period of about fourteen years. In what manner he employed himself during this interval of time, in the moral culture of all who here settled with him, it is not our intention again to record; suffice it to say that when his retreat was made known, and he offered himself up, to make atonement for the violation of the laws of his country, was the scene which presented itself of his labours, his usefulness and worth, that no one apprehended him, or came forward as his accuser. Unmolested he spent the remainder of his days within his own domain, as they may be considered, beloved and revered by the whole community, that is to say, by his own progeny, and died, about five years ago, in the 65th year of his age.

The island now contains about 100 inhabitants who are a very moral and religious people. It descended from a British tar, himself an Episcopalian (though for a time only nominally so,) his children and his children's children adhere to the same mode and form of worship; and notwithstanding they yet without a building called a church, are virtuous Churchmen.

A missionary from the Church of England, who has labored among these islanders as catechist and schoolmaster with great success. The services of religion are strictly regarded, and Mr. Emmons informs us that the worship he attended, though conducted in their school-house, was marked with propriety and decorum as are rarely to be witnessed even in our own country.