

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1837.

THE VISITATION.—Agreeably to public notice and to the citations sent to the Clergy of this Archdeaconry, the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia held his second Visitation at St. Paul's Church, Halifax, on Thursday the 15th May, which was attended by thirty Clergymen from the several parishes in this province, seven being absent from various causes. The usual service was performed at St. Paul's on Thursday morning, the prayers being read by the Rev. Dr. McCawley, president of King's College, Windsor: after which the Bishop delivered his charge in a very impressive manner. As this important document will appear in print, in compliance with the unanimous wish of those to whom it was addressed, we shall merely observe that the altered circumstances of the Clergy since the last visitation, made it necessary for his Lordship to advert at considerable length to the temporal affairs of the Church, and to the present and prospective resources for its support. Favourable notice was taken of the Clerical Societies which have been formed in various parts of the Diocese, and have already been instruments of so much benefit to their members and their respective congregations. But the most prominent object recommended in the Charge, was the formation of a CHURCH SOCIETY, for the purpose of combining the Laity and Clergy more effectually together, and concentrating their energies for the promotion of the interests of the Church and of Religion in general. We give in another column the proceedings afterwards had on this subject. His Lordship's address was listened to with marked attention by the Clergy, and by a large congregation of the laity.—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was present. After the duties at St. Paul's were over, the Clergy repaired to the National School-house, where several subjects, suggested by the Bishop for the advantage of the Church, were discussed in a brotherly spirit.

On Friday, there was again morning service in St. Paul's, when prayers were read by Rev. Dr. Shreve of Chester,—sermon by Rev. Edwin Gilpin of Annapolis, from John, 17 ch. 21st and 22d verses, on the obligation and the benefit of preserving the unity of the Church,—a sound and very seasonable discourse. After Divine service, the Archdeacon and Clergy went in a body to the residence of the Bishop, where the following address was presented to his Lordship:—

To the Hon. and Right Rev.

The Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia.

We, the Clergy of the Archdeaconry of Nova Scotia, beg to convey to your Lordship the expression of our thanks for the excellent and affectionate Charge yesterday addressed to us; and under a sense of the great appropriateness of your remarks to the present circumstances of the Church in this colony, we venture to solicit that it may appear in print.

But while expressing our wishes on this subject, we cannot but take occasion to acknowledge our obligation to your Lordship for the active and successful zeal which you have ever manifested for the spiritual and temporal interests of the Church in this Diocese, since the Providence of God has placed it under your care.

In particular, we desire to make known to your Lordship, our grateful sense of your unremitting endeavours to uphold the collegiate Institutions at Windsor, which, under Divine Providence, appear to constitute the indispensable means of training up a succession of qualified men for the ministry. On looking back to the alarming perils which lately impended over them, we have reason to consider your zeal and exertions as the chief cause to which may be justly attributed their present successful operation, and the permanent footing on which they are now established.

We rejoice to find that, notwithstanding the difficulties in which the Colonial Church has for some time back been involved, it still continues, under God's blessing to be prosperous.

In conclusion, we cordially reciprocate your Lordship's wishes to preserve unanimity and zealously to co-operate for the promotion of "true religion and virtue." And that it may please an overruling Providence, to grant us a long continuance of your successful supervision of the Church in this extensive Diocese, and to accompany all your endeavours with His blessing, is the sincere and ardent prayer of—
(Signed by)

ROBERT WILLIS, Archdeacon, and all the Clergy.

To which the Bishop extemporaneously replied, in a very affecting manner, and in the following terms:—

I thank you sincerely, my Reverend Brethren, for the affectionate address which you have just presented. It is gratifying to me to find that we all have the same view of the circumstances under which the Church in this colony is now placed; and as you consider the Charge, to which you listened with kind attention, may be made useful, your desire to see it in print shall be gratified.

Your affectionate regard overrates the value of the endeavours which I have felt it my duty to make on behalf of the Church committed to my superintendence. If they have been blest with any success, you will join with me in giving all praise and glory to Him who alone can make the feeble efforts of his servants effectual.

The Collegiate Institutions at Windsor are deserving of our warmest regard, and best exertions. They have been endeared to me from the time of their first Establishment, and shall never want such aid as I may be enabled to afford for their defence and support. I need only say, that of thirty clergymen, which the present Visitation has assembled, no less than twenty six were educated there.

For your affectionate desire to co-operate in every effort to cherish unanimity in the Church, I return my repeated thanks;—and for your prayer, that our connexion may be long continued as fellow labourers in the service of our Master, I would return all my heart can offer. The period of our happy union is with Him who cannot err when He shall see fit to interrupt it. Let it be our prayer that the connexion, while it continues, and the separation when He shall sever it, may alike be blest by His unbounded mercy, to His glory, and the benefit of His Church.

May 19th, 1837.

JOHN NOVA SCOTIA.

Immediately afterwards, the Clergy, with his Lordship at their head, repaired to the Government House, where a respectful address was presented to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by whom they were most graciously received.

We regret that we are accidentally without a copy of this address and the appropriate reply, which shall however, appear in our next.—The Clergy approached his Excellency with those sentiments of loyalty to the King, and attachment to the Constitution which have ever distinguished the ministers of a Church acknowledging his Majesty as its Supreme Earthly Head, and the Defender of the Faith. The kind and ready attention which the interests of the Church in this province, and the various institutions connected with it, have uniformly received from our present Governor, were duly and gratefully acknowledged: and prayers were earnestly expressed for the Divine blessing upon his Excellency's person and administration.

In reply, his Excellency was pleased to assure the Clergy of his cordial respect for their sacred office, and his determination to uphold the rights and privileges secured to the Establishment by the laws of the land. The Clergy retired, very favourably impressed with his Excellency's urbanity and condescension.

On Saturday, morning prayer was read by the Rev. Mr. Moody of Liverpool, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Robertson of Bridgetown, from Psalm 43, last three verses, which we regret there were so very few to hear. The rain indeed was descending in

torrents at the time, but we did not think it would have kept so many away from services so rare.—A meeting of the members of the church had been called at 1 o'clock, at the National School; but the state of the weather operated also against the attendance there, and the meeting was adjourned until Monday.

A good deal of conversation took place upon a subject to which we have before adverted,—the establishment of some fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of Clergymen in this province; and rules were actually prepared for an association for this purpose.—It was, however, finally determined to postpone further action in the business until more information, as to the most advisable plan, can be procured, which the Bishop and the town clergy were requested to seek from different quarters.—It is a subject very interesting to every missionary who sees a family growing up around him, for whose support, after he shall be called away from them, he is utterly unable to provide. He will justly consider any means by which £50 a-year can be secured to them, as more desirable than if twice the sum were now given to himself. We trust the matter will not be lost sight of; and we do earnestly commend it to the favourable attention of all who would promote the comfort of those who are now enduring the labours of a missionary life, and whose hearts are often cast down within them, in the midst of these toils, by considering the poverty in which they must leave their families.

On Sunday the 21st, morning prayer was read by Rev. Mr. Stevenson of King's College, and a sermon preached by the Rev. the President of that University from 1 Cor. 4 ch. 1. v. on the duties of the ministerial office.—The Holy Communion was then administered in both kinds by the Bishop alone, first to the Clergy, and afterwards, (assisted by the Archdeacon and Dr. Rowland), to the congregation, of whom many remained to "eat of the same spiritual meat, and drink the same spiritual drink." It was truly "a most comfortable Sacrament," and we trust, the gracious presence of Him who is head over all things to the Church was not withheld, while His chief shepherd in this portion of the earthly vineyard was dispensing the sacred memorials of his dying love to the inferior ministers around the Altar. The affecting solemnity of the scene was increased with all whose thoughts wandered to those dear and honored Fathers and Brethren in our Israel who were with us at the last Visitation, but are now entered into their heavenly rest. Nor could this solemnity be diminished by the enquiry prompted by such reflections,—Who will be wanting when the elders of the Church are next called together here? May we all be so firmly united to Christ our blessed Master, as to be sure of a happy and indissoluble union with Him and each other whenever it shall please Him to end our term of labour in this world of trial.

In the afternoon, prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Townshend of Amherst and the sermon by Rev. Dr. Shreve, on the analogy between the Jewish and Christian dispensations.

In the evening, the Rev. Mr. Cochran read prayers, and the Rev. H. L. Owen of Aylesford, preached from Hebrews 13 ch. 8 v.—and so closed the exercises of the blessed Sabbath, and with them the proper duties of the visitation.

Monday morning had been set apart for the examination of the National School, but owing to the unfortunate indisposition of Mr. Maxwell, there was not an opportunity of gratifying the Clergy by the inspection of his superior school, where the excellencies of the Madras system are faithfully and skilfully reduced to practice.—We understand that about 100 boys are in daily attendance. The female school, under the care of Mrs. Maxwell, was visited, and afforded satisfactory evidence of the laborious diligence with which she devotes herself to the instruction of the children.

At three o'clock, the adjourned meeting for the formation of a CHURCH SOCIETY was held at the National School, when the room was well filled, and filled by those who showed that they came to be actors as well as spectators.—After an address from the Bishop, who was in the chair, and an excellent speech from the Chief Justice, who has set a praiseworthy example for the laity to follow, of open and