

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROPAGATING THE  
GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.\*

BISHOP'S VISIT TO DALHOUSIE, COUNTY OF ANNAPOLIS.

Tuesday, September 27.—This day was promised to the western end of Dalhousie, a military settlement in the forest, thirteen miles from Annapolis. The morning threatened, but did not prevent several members of the Church, male and female, from attending us. We were early in motion, and rode to the church through a rocky and indifferent road. A very interesting congregation were assembled to witness the dedication of their little church to Him, for whose honour it had been reared. No part of Mr. Gilpin's flock can afford him greater satisfaction than he derives from the devout attention of this simple-minded people. Their lot is in the wilderness, which gives but a scanty return to their labour; they are poor, and not likely to be otherwise; but they appear contented with their lot, and thankful for the blessings they enjoy: among the richest of these they place the privilege of having the holy instruction which the Church supplies; and encouraged by their affectionate pastor, they have made exertions almost beyond their means for the erection of the edifice in which they now regularly worship the God of their salvation. Under such circumstances it will easily be imagined that the employments of this day were deeply interesting to all of us. Many indeed were greatly affected. I endeavoured to address myself particularly to the good feeling that was manifested. The church which was named All Saints, and its surrounding burial-ground, were consecrated. I endeavoured to make those who listened anxious for that help which can prepare them for faithful worship in their holy place, and administered the Lord's Supper to eighteen communicants. During the Service there was a terrific thunder gust, and for a few moments the wind was so violent that had it continued with equal force for five minutes, the windows of the church would have been destroyed. But we were endeavouring to serve Him, who can ride in the whirlwind, and direct and control the storm.

I could not quit this engaging flock without a short address to them after the service, to encourage their perseverance in every good work; and I promised them a little aid for the erection of a small tower which will form a very convenient addition to the church and add greatly to its beauty, situated as it is on the margin of an extremely pretty lake, surrounded by a rich wood. It was impossible to omit some notice of the wonderful change effected in this place. A few years ago it was untrodden by human foot; it is now the scene of active industry, and we may hope of religious improvement. How different would its condition now be, had it remained unblest with the sound of the Gospel, from the voice of the Missionary! To the blessing of the Lord upon the labours of the devout and zealous servants of the Society, this little flock in the wilderness is indebted for comforts which they cherish as the pearl without price.

A summary of my work may show journeys to the extent of nearly 2500 miles; 14 separate confirmations, at which 457 persons were confirmed; 58 sermons and addresses, delivered to about 6000 different hearers; 6 churches and chapels, and 3 burial-grounds consecrated; 6 ordinations, at which 5

persons were admitted to the order of priests, and 3 to the order of deacons.

In a review of the work thus performed, there is abundant cause for humility before God: for of the little that has been effected much has been hastily and imperfectly performed; and much, very much, which ought to have been done, has been left undone. But it will not be inconsistent with the humility which is thus excited, to express fervent gratitude to Him, whose I trust we are, and whom we desire to serve, for many encouragements, which, through his mercy, have cheered me in the hours of toil and anxiety; and for the preservation which his providential care has extended to me through some exposure. I feel less equal than I have formerly been to the exertions which the duty of a Missionary Bishop, in these colonies, calls upon him to make; and as age and infirmity must press upon me more and more every year, I can only lament that so little has been done while health and strength were preserved to me. But if that little obtain His blessing, in whose name I trust it has been offered, with humble reliance upon his mercy, it will not have been performed in vain. The pious labour and holy zeal of the Society's Missionaries, have given me comfort and assistance. They seem to feel especially called upon by the peculiar circumstances of the time in which they live and labour, for increasing efforts in the service of their heavenly Master; and they repose on his mercy, which will not leave them nor forsake them, when their slender means of earthly comfort have been materially abridged, by the undeserved curtailment of their small income. They cannot, however, be insensible of their insufficiency to gather the whole harvest in the wide and daily extending field of their labour. And therefore while they implore for themselves increased aid from the Holy Spirit, that they may be daily strengthened for their toil, it is their constant, fervent, prayer, that a way may be opened by the Lord of the harvest, for the entrance and support of more labourers, for the faithful execution of the mighty work that is before them. Commending them and their Bishop to the prayers of the Society, we will look, with humble faith, for the entrance of our united supplications to the throne of grace.

If it were possible to entertain a doubt respecting the value of the work now carrying on in Nova Scotia, that doubt must be silenced by the perusal of the foregoing passages from the Bishop's Journal.

In the midst of discouragements and difficulties, with which mere human resolution would cease to contend, the Bishop of Nova Scotia perseveres, with the spirit of an Apostle, in preaching the glad tidings of the Gospel to rich and poor; and in spite of neglect or even hostility, it is evident that the hearts of a large proportion of the Colonists are inclined to accept the offered ministrations of the Church, and that the Society is called upon to further the plans of this eminent Prelate, by every means in its power.

EAST INDIA OPERATIONS.

The information received during the past year from all parts of the East Indies, repeats the assurance that a very remarkable change is gradually taking place in the minds of the natives; and promises to prepare the way for the downfall of idolatry, and the future reception of the Gospel. It is not to be supposed that there is an immediate prospect of this blessed event; for the prejudices of the natives are strengthened by ties which have existed for thousands

of years; and without the special interposition of the Almighty, ages must pass away before these prejudices are removed. But the course pursued by the nation, in its intercourse with the Hindoos, is of date comparatively recent; and it may be hoped that the present rulers of India will not obstinately adhere to the path of their predecessors. Although Christianity was neglected and even persecuted by the British from the foundation of their empire in Hindostan, this furnishes no excuse for pursuing the same path when a different line of conduct is pointed out by altered circumstances of its inhabitants, and different measures are called for by the improved religious feeling of the mother country.

When the effect of this feeling is brought to bear upon the Indian Government throughout all its departments, one grand obstacle to the progress of the Gospel will be overcome. It is neither expected, desired, that an assault should be made by the rulers upon the errors of heathenism. It is expected and desired, that idolatrous worship should not be maintained and protected, while Christian converts are insulted and injured by the servants of the British people. The Society conceives that the public are entitled to demand satisfactory information upon these heads, and while it is aware that proper instructions have been issued, some years ago, by the Government at home, it has yet to learn that these instructions have been observed by the officers to whom they were addressed.

On another important subject, the Society is happy to know that decided improvement has been effected, and that the consequences are already apparent. Formerly there was much difference of opinion among the Governors of India, respecting communication of European knowledge to the natives. This difference is at an end. In all parts of the Peninsula the study of the English language is encouraged. Thousands of young persons enter yearly on the active duties of life, with the power of reading English books; and a considerable proportion of them show a desire to use this privilege, and apply themselves systematically to the cultivation of European science and literature.

It is of the greatest importance that due advantage should be taken of so favourable an opening for the introduction of religious knowledge. The extravagant fables of the Hindoos cannot long be objects of faith and veneration to a people imbued with the learning of modern times. And the English language promises to become a channel for the conveyance of religion and philosophy to the millions of the East, in the same manner as the Latin language formerly formed a like important office for our own heathen forefathers.

While these events are passing before our eyes, the value of such an institution as Bishop's College becomes daily more indisputable; and the unequalled acknowledgment of this fact, is an ample reward to the Society for all the expense and care bestowed upon its great Missionary establishment for India.

In a letter, dated April 7, 1837, the Bishop of Calcutta informs the Society that on his return from his visitation, he had found the College in a most satisfactory state. An opportunity of beginning a new class of students had presented itself. By the direction, five promising youths had been placed there for education, with a view to employment, first

\* Continued from our last number.