

in their hands. All join with voice, if not with heart, in the holy service; I trust often with both. All now above the age of six or seven can read sufficiently to use a book. At daily prayers, and on the other holidays, many of the women, and occasionally some of the men, attend, and good fruits are being brought forth from all this."

Tuesday, June 6th, 1855.

The Lord Bishop of Llandaff in the Chair.

The Lord Bishop of Colombo, in a letter dated "On Visitation, at Sea, 'The Rangoon,'" April 3, 1856, wrote as follows:—

"Having just completed my visitation, embracing the eastern portion of the Diocese, with Trincomalee and Batticaloa, I gladly employ my ship-board leisure to recount its gratifying circumstances to the Society. The latter has lately been made a full station of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, by the transfer of the services of the Rev. S. Nicholas, a native Presbyterian, who has been now resident nearly a twelvemonth, with a native Deacon and Catechist to assist him. By his activity and zeal it has been satisfactorily organized, amid difficulties which he has met in good spirit. His services, both in English and Tamil, are well attended, and the Holy Communion, every fortnight alternately in each language, the average number of communicants being about twenty-five and thirty in each. On this occasion of my visit the number was more than doubled, and it was very gratifying to observe so nearly an entire adult congregation remaining to partake of the Lord's Supper. At the early service previously, he presented to me fifteen approved candidates for Confirmation, selected from a much larger number, the greater portion of whom he judiciously required should receive further instruction before their admission to the holy rite. The Confirmation was administered in the English, Portuguese, and Tamil languages.

"I observed in his chapel that there are no books for the English Services, and as they have newly and very neatly seated the whole chapel, and obtained lately new Communion plate and a bell from England, and are about to put up a font, I shall be thankful if the Society will kindly grant a £40. bible, prayer and altar books.

"The summons by the Metropolitan to Calcutta for the consecration of the Bishop elect of Labuan will readily be obeyed in October next, if by God's blessing my health enables me to continue so long within the tropics; but I have already obtained the Secretary of State's permission to leave the Diocese for a twelvemonth to recruit my enfeebled strength, and may be sent home to England at a week's notice. I shall not however leave Ceylon till after the consecration unless compelled to do so.

"The college buildings for the divinity students are progressing satisfactorily, and we hope to get them covered in before the rains."

The Board granted books for the performance of Divine Service in the church at Batticaloa.

The Bishop afterwards informed the Society that, on account of the state of his health, he had been advised by his medical attendants to visit England; and in a letter dated "The Indus," off Gibraltar, May 28, 1855, he wrote as follows:—

"We hope to reach England in about a week, and after a short period of retirement with my family, if my health continues to improve, I shall gladly avail myself of an early opportunity of being present at the meeting of the Society.

"A full meeting of the Diocesan Committee was held at St. Thomas's College a few days before my departure, at which I was able to

preside; and after a kind address presented to me by the clergy, was deputed to convey to the Society their sincere feeling of reverence and gratitude for the continued and effective aid given by them to every good work in the diocese for the extension of the Church's usefulness and blessings in so many ways

"Our whole voyage has been one of blessing: both vessels on either side of the Isthmus of Suez, the 'Bentineck' and the 'Indus,' being very full, and in both it has been a real comfort to assemble a congregation of fifty or more in daily service of prayer and thanksgiving every morning; and on Sundays the observance of the day has been correct and exemplary. It was the ground of, I hope, not unthankful feeling as I went on board at Galle, on the tenth anniversary of my consecration, that with so many shortcomings I had been permitted to complete the first decennium of the episcopate without having left the diocese or its duties."

The Gospel according to St. Luke, in Japanese and Chinese intermixed, sent by the Lord Bishop of Victoria, was laid before the Board.

The Lord Bishop of Cape Town, in a letter dated "Bishop's Court, Cape of Good Hope, Feb. 3, 1855," informed the Society that, at the village of Plumstead, in his neighborhood, Mission premises are being erected, containing school accommodation for 200 children, but there will still be a great deficiency.

"The mission," said the Bishop, "was commenced about three years ago, and has been already greatly blessed. At present there is an attendance of full 100 children daily in a small dilapidated building, in which also a night school is held, and which is the only place in which Divine Service can be held for the colored people. The new premises are intended to serve both for chapel and school. Through means of this Mission not a few adults both from the Heathen and Mahomedans have been brought into the fold of Christ, and I can safely say that it is effecting great good. It has been taken up warmly by some of the laity residing in the district, who will be very thankful for any assistance from the Society.

"Another case is that of a school at Riversdale, undertaken by a zealous layman and his aunt, with a special view to the instruction of Heathen and Malays in the Christian faith. May I hope that the Society will help forward this good work also?

"Now that our churches are to a great extent erected, we are turning our attention more and more to direct Mission work among the Heathen. For this we are greatly in need of devoted men."

The Board agreed to grant £50 towards the school-buildings at Plumstead, and £25 towards the school at Riversdale.

Thomas Turner, Esq., brought forward the motion of which he had given notice, and proposed the following resolution for the adoption of the Board:—

"That the Fourth Rule\* be altered by leaving out the part beginning with the word 'Except' in the second line, and ending with the word 'And' in the fifth line."

R. Perry, Esq., seconded this.

It having appeared on a show of hands, that the numbers for the adoption of this resolution and the numbers for its rejection were equal, the Right Reverend Chairman gave his vote in favour of its adoption.

The Rev. R. Belcher gave notice, that at the next meeting he should propose that Rule IV. stand thus,

"That a General Meeting be holden at the Society's house on the first Tuesday in every month, except when such Tuesday shall fall upon the Tuesday before Easter, and except the

months of August and September, at two o'clock."

J. C. Meymott, Esq., gave notice, that he should move that the Rule be restored to the state in which it stood previously to the adoption of the resolution of the Meeting of this day.

The Rev. J. W. Welsh's Report of the visitation of emigrants leaving the port of Liverpool, was laid before the meeting. The following is an extract:—

"A considerable diminution has taken place since I last wrote to you in the number of emigrants sailing from the Mersey. Two or three years ago the average daily departures were 600, at present they average scarcely 400.

"This, however, is a large number. They are chiefly of a much better class than in former years; and a new feature in emigration from this port seems to be commencing, namely a majority of females."

The Lord Bishop of Montreal, in a letter dated Seo House, Montreal, May 4, 1855, wrote as follows:—

"As I have not forwarded any account to the Society of our proceedings since I was in England in 1853, I will now proceed to furnish you with some facts connected with the expenditure of the grants of money received by me from the Society for this diocese, and also of the distribution of the Service Books and other publications with which we have been supplied.

"I have appropriated the following grants towards the erection of the under-mentioned churches:

Durham (additional) .....	£25 currency.
Russettown do. ....	25 "
Buckingham do. ....	25 "
Petite Nation .....	10 "
Stukeley .....	50 "
Gore of Chatham .....	25 "
North Shefford .....	25 "
St. Luke's, Montreal .....	50 "

£235 currency.

leaving a balance unappropriated of 31l. 11s. 2d. currency.

"All the above-mentioned churches, with the exception of the one at the Gore of Chatham, are either already in use, or rapidly advancing towards completion.

"It may interest the Society to know that, independently of school-rooms and private houses, where Divine Service is either steadily or occasionally performed, there are now in this diocese sixty-one churches, of which forty-six have been consecrated, and fifteen others are in use, but, for various reasons, the consecration of them has not yet taken place: some of them are small wooden buildings, which are intended to be replaced by larger and more suitable ones of brick or stone. There are five more also in course of erection, which will, I hope, nearly all of them be sufficiently advanced for use, if not for consecration, before the lapse of many months. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has been a liberal contributor to the funds required for a large number of the various buildings, many of which (in former years especially) I verily believe owe the actual existence to its aid. Not that I mean that the whole cost was defrayed from the funds of the Society, but that the encouragement given to local exertions by the amount of ready money thus granted enabled the inhabitants of many of our poor districts, by contributing labour and materials, to accomplish their work. I find that of the above sixty-six churches built, or now in course of building, the Society has given assistance to no less than forty, in various proportions from £245 downwards to smaller sums, as in the list returned with this letter. It is