

R E P O R T.



Marchmont, near Quebec, 20th November, 1838.

MY LORD,

In obedience to the signification of your Excellency's desire, I proceed to render a Report, for your information, of the state of the Church in this Diocese, as exhibited in the Visitation, which I completed by my return to Quebec on the 14th of the present month, after having been absent since the 6th of August.

The number of persons professing adherence to the Church of England in the Province of Upper Canada, is roughly stated at 150,000. I believe it is by no means accurately known, but measures are understood to be in contemplation for ascertaining it. The number of Clergy in the exercise of their ministry, including some whom I ordained during my visitation, is Seventy-three. The number of Churches built, or in progress towards their completion, is about Ninety.

These data, however, would give a very imperfect idea of the condition and the wants of the population, as it respects the means of Spiritual instruction, or, to speak more properly, could furnish no grounds whatever of forming a correct estimate upon the subject. The prodigious extent of country, the widely-scattered location of the inhabitants, and the state of the roads in the settlements of more recent formation, must, as will readily appear to the judgment of your Excellency, be all taken into the account; and it will be found, in point of fact, that a lamentable proportion of the Church of England population are destitute of any provision for their religious wants; another large proportion very insufficiently provided: and almost all the remainder served by a Clergy who can only meet the demands made upon them by strained efforts, which prejudice their usefulness in other points.