

A form of Petition with whatever accompanying suggestions may be required, will, with the divine permission, be very shortly forwarded to you.

I am,
My dear brethren,
Your affectionate fellow-labourer in the Gospel.
G. J. QUEBEC.

Quebec, 21st Aug. 1850.

P. S.—I avail myself of this opportunity to remind you (although it may possibly be superfluous) of the annual sermon to be preached for the Church Society on behalf of the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy, on Sunday, the 22nd inst.

G. J. Q.

COMPLETION OF THE EPISCOPAL VISITATION OF LOWER CANADA.

The triennial Visitation of the Lord Bishop of Quebec (late of Montreal) throughout the whole of his enormous Diocese, as it existed before the recent division of Lower Canada into two separate Dioceses,*—was completed last month.

The journeyings of the Bishop in the accomplishment of this object commenced in the early part of January 1849, and have been continued, at intervals, since. In order to view them as a connected whole, it would be necessary to consult, in conjunction with the Journal which here follows, containing an account of a voyage to the Gulph and of a visit to the two Missions of Framp-ton, East and West, the several accounts published in the Toronto Church, Vol. xii. No. 32, (8th March, '49) and No. 51, (19th July '49) and Vol. xiii. No. 10, (4th Oct. '49) No. 27, (31st. Jan. '50) No. 28, (7th. Feb. '50) and No. 40 (2nd March, '50.) The most distant point visited in any of the jour-nies performed by *ascending* the St. Lawrence, was Clarendon upon the Ottawa, 350 miles above Quebec: the most remote which was reached by *descending* the same river, was at the Magdalen Islands, from 500 to 600 miles below that city.

THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS.

It was not till 1847 that the Bishop was made aware of any claim existing in these islands, (in which there are computed to be about two thousand French Acadian Roman Catholics,) upon the care of the Church of England. The inhabitants are in the habit of regarding themselves as connected rather with Nova Scotia, P. Edward's Island, or Newfoundland, (of which last Colony they formerly constituted a dependency,) than with Canada; and the still very small body of Protestants among them, having grown out of yet smaller beginnings, appear to have become habituated to the idea of being too insignificant and incon-siderable to apply at a distance for the provisions of the Chris-tian Ministry. The late Mr. E. Bowen, however, having been obliged in his capacity of District Judge in the County of Gaspé, to pass over to the Islands, in the year above mentioned, in order to hold an annual Circuit Court, had occasion to learn the fact that a good number of Protestant families were settled upon the islands, and having been always alive to the spiritual interests of his fellow-creatures, he made the Bishop acquainted with the particulars. It was accordingly arranged that upon the next visit of the Judge in 1848, he should be accompanied by the Rev. R. Short, one of the Missionaries in the County of Gaspé, who volunteered for the service. In the execution, however, of this arrangement, the labours of Mr. Short were interrupted, and left incomplete in consequence of the unfortunate illness of the Judge, (terminating some time afterwards in his death,) which

* This is the second sub-division, since his original consecration to the Episcopate, in 1836; for the whole of Canada West was, for a time, in-cluded in his charge. It is also matter of particular thankfulness that a Diocese has been erected and a See established two thousand mile from Quebec, in Prince Rupert's Land, in which there was no provision for the Episcopal ministrations, when the Bishop, passing out of the limits of his own Jurisdiction, supplied the want, for the moment, by his visit to those regions in 1844. Thus there are now four Dioceses where, before the summer of 1839, there was only one, and there are seven in all in British North America.

broke out at the islands; and when they returned to Gaspé, the only portion of the Protestant inhabitants who had been visited were the settlers upon Entry Island.

The ministrations of Mr. Short were thankfully received, by these Islanders,—they presented to him nineteen subjects for bap-tism—and they expressed, in a body, their desire to have the ministry of the Church of England planted among them. But before putting matters actually in train for such an object, the Bishop, having occasion to visit the Missions in Gaspé, determined to take the opportunity of proceeding also to the Magdalen Is-lands, and ascertaining by personal inspection, the wants and the dispositions of all the Protestant settlers who are there to be found. It had been originally his Lordship's intention to have availed him-self of the facility of crossing from Gaspé, afforded by the visit of the present Judge (DeBlois) who very kindly and considerably waited for him as long as he could venture to do in consistency with the object of securing his arrival in time for the opening of the Circuit Court. Circumstances unavoidably delayed the de-parture of the Bishop from Quebec; and he found the means of engaging a passage in a Brigantine bound for Halifax, the master of which undertook to land him at the Islands. In this vessel he accordingly embarked on the 25th of June, carrying with him a supply of bibles, prayer-books, and tracts, voted for the purpose by the Diocesan Committee at Quebec, of the Society for Pro-moting Christian Knowledge; and, having touched at Cape Cove in Gaspé, where the vessel left a small portion of her cargo, (120 or 130 miles from the islands) he was landed, with the interme-diate help of a little fishing-schooner from the Acadian settle-ments of Cape Breton, with which he fell in, and in which he passed the previous night, at S. W. Point in the Magdalen Is-lands, with the singular rock full in view called the *Corps mort*, or Deadman's Island, at 4 o'clock in the morning of the 4th of July.

The Bishop who, upon this occasion, travelled alone, was a total stranger to the place and to the people—and there was no habitation in sight. There were, however, the signs of human labour, in some roughly prepared means of curing cod, upon a diminutive scale, on the beach—and the men who had landed him, in a flat, out of the fishing-craft, proceeded back through a tract of low scrubby woods, to a French settlement, to procure a con-veyance. At the end of an hour and a half, they emerged again with a little rudely constructed cart which just sufficed for the baggage. The Bishop got the best information which he could, from one or two people who came with the cart—and, after a good deal of perplexity, decided to take the road to House Harbor, distant about 16 miles, the residence of Mr. Munsey, who is a mer-chant, filling the part of agent for the proprietor of the Islands, and a Justice of the Peace. The islands of this singular group are, with two or three exceptions, connected with each other by very long irregular strips of sand beach, enclosing a number of large lagoons. Along one of these beaches the Bishop now proceeded on foot for about ten miles, and then mounting a little eminence, came to a small kind of village, inhabited by French Acadians, called from its sheltered harbor, *l'Etang du Nord*, and containing a wooden Roman Catholic Church, served by the same Priest who serves another at House Harbor. Here the Bishop having dried himself a little over the stove—for it had rained hard the whole morn-ing,) procured some breakfast and a light cart which was consi-derably in advance of the other in civilization, for conveying him-self for the remainder of the distance, and he met accidentally with the younger brother of Mr. Munsey, who was good enough to accompany him to that gentleman's house. Mr. Munsey was absent in another part of the Islands—but his Lordship received every attention and kindness from Mrs. M. and her family, and the size of the family with the addition of several relatives who were summer visitors, rendering it impossible to accommodate him in the house, which is of rather small dimensions, lodgings were procured for him close by with a particularly clean and de-cent though humble family belonging to the French population.

It is not necessary to enter into a detail of all the delays and disappointments arising from baffling winds and other circum-stances, by which the plans and movements of the Bishop were