

Our Deanery.

The first glimpse which we catch of the Church's work in Gagetown reveals to us a Missionary of the S. P. G., the Rev. T. Wood, making his way up the St. John river, and visiting the different settlements on its banks, holding Divine Service and baptizing; in Gagetown however, the two who were baptized by him were Indian children, in the month of July, A. D. 1769. Probably as in other settlements he found that "most of the children had been already baptized by Romish Priests," for tradition speaks of an old Acadian hamlet situate on the site of the present village of Gagetown, presumably at the time when the French under Hubert d' Audigny, and Vihebon (A. D. 1670 to 1692) held Fort Jemseg on the opposite bank of the river. On the same traditinary authority we hear of the habitants throwing their *châpûl bell* into "the Creek," and hiding their *Peuates*, and then retreating through the forest on the advance of British forces.

In a letter to the S. P. G. Mr. Wood suggested that a prudent Missionary be appointed to the several rising townships of Gagetown, Burton, and Maugerville; nothing of the kind, however, seems to have been done till after the declaration of American independence (4th July 1776) when many loyalists left the republican States and settled down in British America.

Of the clergy who accompanied or followed, Rev. Richard Clarke was in 1786 selected to take charge of the parishes of Gagetown, Hampstead, Wickham, and Waterborough. The following year he brought his wife and children from Woodbury, Connecticut, and took up his residence in Gagetown, but itinerating, preaching the Gospel, and administering the Sacraments, in many other places also.

In 1790 a Church was built in Gagetown, the British Government having granted two thousand pounds sterling for the purpose of building Churches in the Province of New Brunswick.

On the 13th of March, 1811, Mr. Clarke's rectorship was brought to a summary conclusion, by his residence being burned down in the night and three of his family, a daughter, a grandson, and a niece, perishing in the flames, which heart-breaking event so affected him that he resigned his cure, and accepted that of St. Stephen, Charlotte Co., where he resided till his death in 1824. The Rev. Samuel R. Clarke, son of the above, was the second Rector of Gagetown, he succeeded his father in 1811, and the Parish records show that he officiated in Gagetown, Waterborough, Wickham, Hampstead and Burton, until his death in August, 1841, and after an interval of some time was succeeded by the Rev. N. A. Coster.

On the 21st February, 1844, Mr. Coster was inducted Rector of Gagetown, and held office here till A. D. 1858, when he removed to Richibucto, Kent County, and at his death, A. D. 1879, his remains were brought here for interment.

In June, 1858, the Rev. James Neales was invited by the Wardens and Vestry of Gagetown to become their Rector, and on the return of the Bishop of Fredericton from England, Mr. Neales was inducted. At a Vestry meeting four years previous to this it had been stated that the

Church was in a very dilapidated state, and immediately after Mr. Neales' induction an effort was made to erect a new one, but an influential majority of pew owners opposed the movement, and it had to be abandoned again and again till 1879, when a legacy of a thousand dollars, left by Mr. Charles W. Smith for the express purpose of building a new Church, set the Church-people to work in earnest, and on the 10th of November, 1880, the Bishop consecrated the new "house of prayer for all people," which had been erected on the site of the old Church, which for ninety years had been occupied by the members of the Church of England as their place of worship; and the widow of the Rev. N. A. Coster put a handsome East window of stained glass in the Chancel of the new Church, as a memorial of her deceased husband. Churches have been built in Waterborough and the other Parish around the Grand Lake, and two Clergymen to them, but Gagetown and Hampstead have but one Priest, whose parsonage, built for Mr. Coster in 1844, is in close vicinity to the Parish Church.

The last census gives 370 as the number of Church members, 97 of whom are Communicants; there are 3 Sunday Schools, with 9 Teachers and 84 Scholars, a new Sunday School house is nearly finished; and three Sunday Services are held every week, and four on each alternate Sunday, besides week-day Services.

Correspondence.

To the Editors of the K. D. M.

GENTLEMEN: As a constant reader and well wisher of the K. D. M., and one who is in hearty sympathy with its objects, will you allow me to offer a suggestion or two with reference to the paying of subscriptions.

The annual subscription to the Magazine is 50 cents. Now I think that a good many of our country Church people, who live back from Money Order Offices, do not always know just how to send 50 cents to Sussex. It seems to me that if a Collector could be appointed in each Parish, who would call on each subscriber at the proper time, there would be no difficulty in collecting all the amounts due. If not found possible to have a Parochial Collector, could not a slip be inserted in the Magazine to remind each individual subscriber that his or her subscription is due, and stating to whom it should be paid in the Parish, or asking that the amount be sent in stamps to the Editors. If this slip were enclosed in an addressed envelope, so much the better.

P. S.—I am glad to see that the K. D. M. is to be continued.

Notices.

The quarterly meeting of S. S. T. U., Section III, will be held at Sussex on Tuesday, March 2nd. Holy Communion will be celebrated at Trinity Church at 10 a.m. The First Session of the Teachers will be opened at the Rectory, at 11 a.m., unless otherwise directed. The names of those who will be present should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. E. N. Sharp, Sussex, in good time.