

to be every one of the United Kingdom.

In a communication some few weeks since from *Archdeacon I.*, printed the following remarks: "The morning services being concluded, his Lordship crossed to the opposite side of the Strait. Of the services in that improved portion of the Diocese your Belfast correspondent will doubtless furnish the details." I have been waiting for those, before giving you some account of the labors of our respected Diocesan, at the close of his extensive tour, along the Eastern coast of our Province, in which, as the facilities of travelling are there neither many nor convenient, he must necessarily have been exposed, in the discharge of his laborious duties, to long and toilsome journeys, often on foot, and under extreme heat. I was desirous to see the account above alluded to before the public, as I wished the members of our Church, who take an interest in her increase and prosperity, to have read, in rotation, as they occurred, some details of duties performed, of the interest evinced, by the particular congregations, in the sacred services, and the numbers confirmed. I will now, however, without further delay, furnish you with some account of his Lordship's visit to Three Fathom Harbor, the inhabitants of which place are an interesting people, and appear to be strongly attached to the Church of their fathers. On Sunday morning the 26th of August, his Lordship, with the Revd. Thomas Dunn, drove to the Settlement, and were received by the Rector of Dartmouth, and conducted to the Church. As they approached the sacred edifice, his Lordship was welcomed by the peals of the "Church going bell," a pleasing sound, which, for some years past, had not gladdened the ears of those who rejoice when the opportunity is afforded them, to "go up to the House of the Lord." Additional seats had to be provided, for the very crowded congregation, which attended on this occasion; and, with humble gratitude it is added, manifested throughout a deep and pleasing interest in the services. The Prayers were said by the Revd. T. Dunn; and, at the conclusion of Morning Prayer, an appropriate Hymn was pleasingly sung by the whole congregation, the candidates, with evident feeling, joining heartily in this song of Praise. The Preface to the Confirmation Service was then read by the Rector, and twenty-four Candidates presented to his Lordship, for the holy and apostolic rite of "Laying on of hands." These were addressed, in a solemn and forcible manner, by his Lordship, who reminded them that they were to be engaged that day in one of the most sacred and important transactions in which created beings can bear a part, viz., the solemn renewal of their former covenant with their Maker, at their Baptism, and the no less solemn claim of the promised mercies of our great Creator towards themselves. The behaviour of the candidates was peculiarly devout, and becoming the new dedication they were about to make of themselves to God;—the responses were audibly and feelingly made by all, and a most hearty AMEN pronounced at the conclusion of the comprehensive prayer—"Defend O Lord this Thy servant" &c. The Sermon by the Bishop, was listened to with marked attention, and the sound and wholesome advice and instruction, we have every reason to believe, will be acted upon and remembered. His Lordship, with the Clergy, then left for the Church at Porter's Lake, a distance of nine miles. Here a very large congregation awaited their arrival, composed of different denominations, come together to witness the services,—and from the interest which was manifested throughout, there is reason to believe that the congregation was not only gratified but profited. At the conclusion of Evening Prayer, twelve candidates were presented by the Rector for the solemn and ancient rite of Confirmation, making in all in the Parish of Dartmouth, Seventy-four persons. It is fervently to be hoped that this will be a day remembered much, by all those present, and often thought upon in the stillness of the night, in the freshness of the morning, and in the languor of noon,—whenever indeed the soul retires upon itself and finds food in the recollection of past scenes and past impressions.

His Lordship, after giving some necessary advice respecting the repairs of the Church, and of the fence around the burial ground, which is in a very disreputable and dilapidated state, left at a late hour for Dartmouth, but happily reached the Steam Boat Wharf in time to take advantage of the last boat for that evening, and arrived in safety at his home.

Dartmouth, Sept. 11, 1855.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, SEPT. 15, 1855.

SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY.

Looking forward to the time when the Church in this Province will be thrown upon her Members for the sole support of her Ministers, we would ask, are we providing now for the future? As the present incumbents drop off can their places be supplied? We fear the answer to these queries must be in the negative. It is true that the Endowment of Parishes has commenced, but it is very evident that no parish in the country could support a Minister from the small sum now deposited. There are those who believe that the voluntary system will supply all need, and that under it the Church will

flourish and increase. We hesitate not to affirm, that it will be an unhappy day when our Clergy are left to the tender mercies of that system for their maintenance. A glance at our brethren of the Episcopal Church in the United States tells a sad tale of the working of the voluntary system. There we see a number of Clergymen, who from the inadequate support received from the people, are obliged to shut their mouths from preaching the Gospel, and follow a profession or trade, which if contrary to their ordination vows, at least gives them that support which they in vain looked for in their former calling. And can we suppose that this system would work better in this country? From the present position of our Church we know that affairs would be in a worse condition. Our Clergy receive their main support, from England, the people contributing but a small share of their salaries in comparison. When the whole burden shall fall upon the people, will they be willing and able to bear it? On the contrary, shall we not hear of Churches closed that are now opened, the congregation scattered as sheep having no shepherd—and need we add, what a state of society this state of things will soon manifest. Even suppose that every man gave according to his ability, there are parishes whose inhabitants are so poor that they could not contribute sufficient for the support of a Minister. For proof of this look at the difficulty in raising the fifty pounds in order that the Minister may receive his stipend from the S. P. G. and D. C. S. What would be the amount raised if the Clergyman depended entirely for his living upon the voluntary contributions of his people?

We might if space permitted, show that the system is pernicious in its effect both upon the Clergy and the people. By such a system you make the Pastor the slave of his congregation—so dependent upon it that he perhaps often refrains from warning the unruly, lest he should starve. Now we are far from insinuating that any Minister would desire to gain gold by winking at the vices of his hearers, but we ought not to place them in a position where he would, being a man of like passions with ourselves, be tempted to connive at wickedness in high places. We know that the general spirit of this liberal age is contrary to our opinion, nevertheless we assert from a knowledge of the fact, that to make a Minister useful in his Parish, you must in a great measure free him from those trammels which voluntarism throws around him.

There are others again who are opposed to the capricious system, and advocate the principle of assessment. The principle is a sound one, if it would meet the wants of the Church, but we fear that if not carried out until the time when our Church shall have become self-supporting, it would fall short and fail. If every Parish were assessed for a certain amount annually, to be deposited as an endowment, then, we think, the future prospects of the Church would appear more bright to the eye than they do now.

That steps should be immediately taken towards endowing Parishes is very plain. The best and quickest mode of accomplishing the object may be an open question. Doubtless this will be one of the first subjects which will engage the attention of our contemplated Synod. It should not be lost sight of by any person who calls himself a Churchman. We may be now enjoying the means of grace; but we are reminded that our children growing around us will be deprived of these blessings unless provision be now made for the future maintenance of the Clergy. Let us not forget that God has planted his Church among us and that a weighty responsibility rests upon us for its growth and increase. If Christians, from carelessness or indifference neglect to secure the permanent continuance of the Church in our land, they will have to answer for their neglect to the Lord of the vineyard.

A LETTER FROM SHELBURNE.

I write from one of the quietest places on the face of the earth, where I have been sojourning for the last two days—the Town of Shelburne—which you will still find noticed in Geographies as one of the chief towns of Nova Scotia next to the Capital—and which some seventy years since contained ten or twelve thousand inhabitants.

Very little now remains to attest to the presence of that generation, except about two or three hundred of their descendants—the rest have gone and their works have followed them. They came here at the close of the war of independence—self-expatriated for their loyalty to the British Crown. They planned a city upon an extensive scale—cut down the virgin forest—cleared streets—built and planted—and for a while all was bustle and activity, and the infant township acquired the reputation of being the second city of the Province. The noble harbour helped the delusion, which, however, speedily came

to an end. A stranger finds it difficult to account, by natural causes, for the decadence of a place, which still at that time it may be supposed but little outcultivated to the cultivator of the soil, gave so much promise to the fisherman, from its proximity to the best fishing grounds of the coast, and was so tempting to the mariner and merchant in its ample harbour, whose is room and verge enough for the British navy to ride in safety. Whatsoever may be the cause, the fact cannot be disputed. Some of the old houses still stand as proof of the strength and goodness of the imported material with which they were constructed—the lines of the streets and town lots are still preserved as evidence of the extent of the original design—a few of the old fruit trees still retain their vigor—and a few descendants of the settlers, who, tired of the state of unrest to which they had been subjected in a rebellious land, clung for better or worse to the quiet of the land of their adoption, are left to indulge in reminiscences of the glory of the town, and to hope for a time when it shall again rise in population, and in business activity and importance. It is a remarkable fact connected with the history of Shelburne, that of several thousand negroes who at the time of its settlement were brought from the United States, and distributed on lands within six miles adjacent, a large number were sent to Sierra Leone, and formed the first instalment of freedom in that colony of liberated slaves.

Shelburne, we are inclined to believe, from present appearances, has seen its worst days. The abandonment by the original settlers, was forced upon them by circumstances which they could not control,—Halifax would have shared the same fate, had it not been for the vast government expenditures which have nursed its infancy, and even now maintain it in life and vigour. Property is looking up, altho' the price which is paid for houses and land, seems ridiculously small in comparison with other parts of the Province. Fancy a large two story house, with outhouses, and half an acre of ground, being purchased a few years since for £70 and selling within the past twelve months for £250. The trade of Shelburne if small, is increasing—the houses are less numerous, they appear to be uninhabited—if the country around does not manifest signs of enlarged cultivation, the half farmer half fisherman is enabled to live comfortably himself, and to supply the demand for his surplus. Several fine vessels, a credit to the place and to the builders, are yearly launched in the vicinity, and a considerable amount of tonnage is owned in the port. Two packets run constantly to Halifax, and we venture to predict, that in the operation of the Treaty of Reciprocity, the advantages which this noble harbour presents for the prosecution of the Fisheries and the West India trade, will not be overlooked by one of the high contracting parties, and that it will not be long before the calculating enterprise of the United States, will find a profitable investment in the teeming waters which lave its shores.

We cannot say much for the natural beauty or variety of the scenery in this vicinity, so far as it has come under our view; but the healthiness of the climate has long been celebrated, and many an invalid has been benefited by a summer's residence. If pure air and water, an absence of fog and damp, and quiet undisturbed, can administer to a body or mind diseased, they may all be realized here in great perfection. An improvement is also beginning to be made in the accommodation for travellers, several houses having been recently fitted for their reception, and travelling has greatly increased of late years along the shore in this direction—among the rest we may mention that kept by Capt. Pierce, long and favourably known as the master of the Shelburne Packet.

The moral character of the Shelburne community stands deservedly high, and from the several places of worship of various denominations in the Town, it may be inferred that the religious progress of the people is carefully attended to. Conspicuous among the rest is the Episcopal Church, in which the Rev. T. H. White officiates. The worthy rector is descended from one of the principal inhabitants who assisted at the settlement of Shelburne, and carries along with him the affections of his people, and the esteem and good will of the various persuasions by whom he is surrounded.

The foregoing is but a meagre sketch of an interesting locality. Little else can be expected from a passing traveller. The writer leaves the subject to be charged upon by those who are more competent to the task. The Roseway River which empties itself into Shelburne Harbour, and which penetrates some eighteen or twenty miles into the interior, pos-

One of these, the Challenge, Capt. Walthers, built by McKay of Shelburne, is said to beat every thing of her size along the shore, on all points of sailing.