

ing in a room with four, and feeding on the poorest possible diet. The fact is that the town is crammed to overflowing with people, and in consequence of the price of labour, no additions have been made to it by building, since the gold discovery. The suburbs are fringed in every direction with tents, and a closely packed city of canvas roofs is to be seen on the other side of the Yarra Yarra, in which, no doubt, thousands of poor emigrants find a temporary shelter upon their first arrival in this distant land. I cannot describe to you the universal feeling of disappointment in those who have been inveigled out to try their fortune here. The first glance at the country almost destroys the illusion. The dreary landscape—the forlorn trees—the endless dreary plains—the universal dun and olive hues, after the freshness of northern vegetation, wither upon the soul, and then the difficulty of finding congenial occupation, the constant hard drinking, which forms the sole amusement of the people, combined with the heat and mosquitoes of the town, are enough to drive one to despair. I have not met with a single individual who liked the country, or who contemplated such a fate as laying his bones in it. The one absorbing idea is that of making money to spend elsewhere. Every day, nay, each hour you may hear the expressions—“This miserable place!” or “This abominable country!” until it becomes a matter of course to apostrophize it in such terms. Do endeavour to dissuade any you know, so inclined, from leaving St. John for Australia, for, believe me, they would deeply regret it in the end. There are no home comforts, no intellectual resources, nothing but roughness and exposure and the lowest species of debauchery, and if that be not enough to warn him off, say that the hot winds are fearful, the dust perfectly intolerable, rheumatism a prevalent complaint, and influenza raging like a plague at the present moment, over the length of the land, proving in many cases fatal. Such, without exaggeration, is Australia generally and Melbourne in particular, which may be regarded as a condensation of the annoyances and evils peculiar to the country and the time. What I shall do as yet I have not resolved. I feel induced to take a rest for a week or so after such a period of labor, but what with the heat and flies and the crowded state of the boarding houses, I find even that hard. I wrote home from Forest Creek some time ago, which I hope you received. I have not met any of my Saint John friends here, but a vessel arrived from Halifax some time since, bringing out passengers, among whom I noticed were some familiar names. What a long way from home!—a few such trips and life would be ended.

I should so much like to talk with some one from St. John. There is now a regular line of Steamships plying between England and Australia, which it is hoped will shorten the distance between us. This letter I think of sending by the well known “Great Britain,” which recently arrived, and will leave this on her return about the end of the month. Melbourne is a curious place, the streets being crowded with people from every part of the world, and the windows of the gold brokers displaying heaps of native gold, from the “nugget” of many pounds weight to the fine scaly gold of particular diggings. It is nothing but a lottery where the blanks far outnumber the prizes, and many unequal to the hardships of gold mining or disgusted with a first attempt, return after a few weeks trial at the Gold Fields. It is the opinion of many, myself included, that the diggings are declining in productiveness, and will ultimately fall off to an ordinary average unworthy the sacrifice of steady occupation and comforts of town life, as has been the case hitherto. Such has been the inevitable result in the history of Gold discoveries, and present appearances fully justify the opinion.

(To be Continued.)

Correspondence.

SONGS OF THE CHURCH.

No. 41.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

“Still there is room.”—St. Luke, xiv. 16.

Room at the Feast! and Christ is there,
To welcome all that come;
“Still there is room,” and all may share
Their Father’s board and home.

Room at the feast! tho’ thousands press
To greet their Saviour’s call,
“Still there is room,” and Christ shall bless
His Marriage Festival.

Room at the feast! and every race
Acceptance there may find;
Fill up the room, there still is space
For halt, and maim’d, and blind.

O Lord the riches of thy grace
Are furnished in love;
O may we find a festal place
Within Thy courts above.

There with Thy plenteous mercy blest,
The bridal song to sing;
And in the wedding garment drest,
Hail our anointed King.

W B

BISHOPRIC ENDOWMENT FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

Sir,—

I believe that the members of our Church in this Diocese are generally anxious to obtain some authentic information as to the present state of the Fund for the Endowment of the Bishopric of Nova Scotia. I have observed, however, with much regret, that there seems to be a profound silence on the subject for several months past, and the natural inference would appear to be, that the Subscription List has now been closed, and that nothing further is expected to be done. But, whatever may be the truth on this point, I would beg to inquire, on behalf of the contributors to the Fund, what are the intentions of the Committee with respect to the sum that has already been collected, and to what purpose is it to be applied? I do not think that any official announcement has yet been made on these important points, and it must be felt that it is high time that the nature and design of the Fund should be clearly explained, for the satisfaction of the subscribers and others interested in the decision.

I believe that a Special Committee of management was appointed some time ago, but I am not aware that they have ever published any statement in explanation of their views. I recollect that a meeting of the Committee was held early in January, 1852, at which it was resolved, that the Fund to be subscribed for the Endowment of the Bishopric, should be applied to the purpose of procuring a suitable residence for the Bishop—unless this purpose should be specially objected to by the subscribers. It was apprehended, that an objection to this application of the Fund might be made by some of the country subscribers, but I understand that the general feeling among them is quite the reverse. Immediately after this meeting, a subscription was commenced, to which I and several others contributed, on the understanding that the Resolution should be carried into effect. This, however, has not been the case, though several desirable opportunities for this mode of investment have occurred since that time, and it has been rumoured that the original Resolution was subsequently rescinded, and that it is no longer intended, that the Fund should be applied to this purpose. Now this is certainly a point which requires some explanation, as I believe it is not generally understood,—and I have heard it intimated, that should this be the case, several subscribers will require their contributions to be refunded, as having been given for a specific object, which appears to have been since abandoned.

It is now nearly two years since our Bishop arrived in Halifax, yet it seems that during that time no effectual measures have been taken for securing the first great object connected with his temporal position, by building or purchasing a house for him to live in. And now, nearly two months have elapsed since his Lordship left our shores for England, and nothing of a practical nature has since been done. Surely the favourable opportunity of his absence ought not to be allowed to pass away without accomplishing this purpose—and indeed there is reason to believe that the event of his Lordship’s return to Halifax depends very much on the success of the exertions that may be made to effect this object. It is evident, that we can no longer expect any assistance from the British Government, which has ceased to recognize the duty of supporting the Church of God in its temporal condition—and consequently, we must depend, almost entirely, on the voluntary contributions of individual Christians for the maintenance of our Bishop and Clergy. There seems to be no prospect of realizing anything like a sufficient Endowment for our Bishopric, from the subscriptions of Churchmen in this Province,—but if we are indeed attached and devoted members of the Church of England—if we believe Episcopacy to be a scriptural and apostolical institution, then let us really prove the sincerity of our profession, not by words, but by deeds, by liberal and self-denying exertions, to provide for the perpetual succession of this sacred office in the Church of Nova Scotia. It is indeed a very humiliating reflection, that we cannot avail ourselves of the liberal offer lately made by the Parent Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, which proposed to contribute the munificent sum of £10,000 for this purpose, on condition that £5000 should be raised in the Diocese. Our Bishop was reluctantly compelled to decline this generous boon, on the ground of the alleged impossibility of complying with this condition, though a similar sum was raised a few years ago in the other Province for the endowment of its Bishopric. But if we cannot do this, surely it is not too much to expect that we should be able to raise a Fund sufficient to provide a proper house for the accommodation of our chief Pastor, so as to afford a reasonable prospect for the permanent residence of a Bishop among us. I feel that it ought to be distinctly understood, that at present we have no such prospect. Our Churchmen are surely aware of the altered circumstances of Episcopal temporalities since the death of our late Bishop—there is, indeed, a small sum which has been granted to this See by the Society for Promoting Christian

Knowledge—and there is another more considerable, though precarious sum which, has been hitherto granted to this See by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel—but it should be stated, that it is the opinion of those who are best qualified to judge, that, on the next avoidance of the See, this sum will be transferred to another of our North American Dioceses, and consequently, that the Diocese of Nova Scotia being thus left without support, will, in that case, instead of being, as formerly, the mother of them all, be annexed to one of the neighbouring Dioceses of Newfoundland or Fredericton. I think it will be generally agreed, that such a result is most sincerely to be deprecated; and if so, we must make an effort to avoid it—and it now rests with the Churchmen of Nova Scotia to determine, whether we shall adopt the principle of “Independence” or “Annexation” for our own Diocese.

But let me not be understood, as if I wished to speak disparagingly of what has been already done. I am well aware that in many cases a spirit of true Christian liberality has been manifested, and that noble sacrifices have been made, in several instances, worthy of the zeal and love of primitive times; but still it must be admitted that much remains to be done, and that fresh exertions must be made before we can rest satisfied with having performed our duty to the Church and to God.

Without entering into further details, I would suggest, that the Committee should publish a complete list of Subscribers and the amount of their subscriptions, (distinguishing between sums paid and unpaid), announce the definite object of the Fund, and then make another appeal to the public, and report all their proceedings in the columns of the *Church Times*. Let them endeavour to discharge their trust with faithfulness and perseverance, and I do not despair, that, before the end of the summer, if they cannot succeed in purchasing a permanent See House, at least a convenient temporary residence will be procured for the reception of our Bishop, on his arrival from England.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant.

AN EPISCOPALIAN.

COLONIAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL SOCIETY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

Dr. Sir,—

As many readers of your paper may not have seen the 5th Annual Report (1852) of the Halifax Association in aid of the Society, I shall be obliged by your allowing me to state that there are now five of its ordained Missionaries labouring in this diocese, whose stipends are paid from its funds, and that during the past year *Eleven* other agents have been employed, including Catechists, Schoolmasters, and Schoolmistresses, *nine* of whom are at present actively engaged in carrying on their work, making a total staff of fourteen individuals now in the Society’s service in the diocese.

The Committee are using their best exertions to increase the number of agents, and confidently expect with the Divine blessing to find spiritual minded persons ready to be engaged and to enter upon a course of preparation for the important labors to which they will be appointed.

The Society’s expenditure in Nova Scotia alone during 1852, was about £900, and including Prince Edward Island over £1,100. During the present year it will necessarily be more; but the sum voted by the Parent Institution for any proposed field of operation, is generally in proportion to the support it receives from that locality.

The cordial sympathy and active co-operation of the Clergy and Laity of our Church is therefore earnestly sought, in order to carrying forward a work for which it is believed there is a great necessity and an open door of usefulness.

It is proposed that the General Agent of the Society shall visit various parts of the Province during the present summer to make the Society known, and to invite the aid and assistance of all who may be able and willing to assist in the good work.

Fearing to make this communication long and tedious, I will Sir, by your permission, resume the subject shortly, and in the mean time remain

Your obliged servant.

THOMAS DUNN, Genl. Agent.

P. S. Daily attendance will be given at the Society’s House, Gottingen street, between the hours of One to Three p. m. (Saturdays excepted,) where Religious Books and Tracts may be obtained by purchase or loan.

Halifax, N. S. June 6, 1853.

CENTENARY COMMEMORATION.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

LUNenburg, June 8, 1852.

A most interesting commemoration closed yesterday at Lunenburg, enjoyed by a body of at least three thousand persons, assembled on that interesting occasion. The day was ushered in by a salute of five and twenty guns at sunrise from Barrack Hill, on which site the first Barracks were erected, accompanied with the ringing of bells in all the Churches and a general display of flags and banners. The clouds which early threatened to disturb the enjoyment cleared away, giving place to a beautiful day, and the late seasonable weather had forwarded vegetation a fortnight earlier than usual, greatly adding thereby to the natural loveliness of the scenery. At nine o’clock prayers and