

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby awarded to those of the inhabitants of Pietou, who so zealously and charitably exerted themselves in extending relief to the sick and destitute Emigrants, recently arrived in that Town from Magdalen Islands.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, the Vicar General, and the Clergy of this Parish, for their indefatigable and praiseworthy exertions in alleviating the distress of the destitute and sick Emigrants who have reached our Shores the present season.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Daniel Creamer, Esq., for his able conduct in the chair this evening, and to the Committee, and other officers of this Association for their zeal in the performance of the duties devolving on them.

An adjournment was moved and passed.

JAMES FITZGERALD,
Secretary.

CATHOLICITY IN THE BERMUDAS.

LETTER I.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TABLET.

Bermudas, March 23, 1847.

My Dear Sir—The interest you take in everything connected with our holy religion, and the fact that your paper is made the medium through which Catholicity in every part of the globe tells the tale of its crosses, its sufferings its hopes, and its triumphs, induce me to trespass upon your columns whilst I claim your sympathy for our dear Brethren of the faith in the solitary islands of Bermuda.

A few months ago, for the first time, a resident clergyman, the Rev Mr. Hannan, was located in this distant mission, and as the seeds of faith are generally sown in the midst of difficulties, it would be too much to expect that the Bermudas should form an exception to the rule. Upon his arrival here the Priest scarcely knew where to look for his congregation, and that glorious emblem of our faith the Cross, which the missionary always regards with love and hope, was nowhere to be found.—Nature, indeed, had showered down numberless beauties upon these interesting isles, but viewed with the eye of religion they presented one unbroken scene of spiritual desolation. The creed of ages however, was not without its representatives even here—faithful to the teachings of the church, although for many a long year the voice of religion had spoken to them only in the depths of their own conscience, they welcomed the priest as fond children would welcome a kind father after a long absence; and he, forgetting that he was nearly seven hundred miles distant from the nearest point of land on the American continent, devoted himself to the mission with all the earnestness and zeal which its numerous wants demanded, and the fidelity of his brethren inspired.

Your readers generally may not be aware that the islands of Bermuda are included within the jurisdiction of the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, Bishop of Halifax. To those who know the immense extent of territory over which his Lordship's pastoral care extends in Nova Scotia; the numerous wants of that portion of the diocese; the trivial means at his disposal, and the absolute necessity of breaking the bread of life to those who crave for it with so much ardour in many distant localities, it will be a mat-

ter of astonishment that he should have accomplished so much for religion in the Bermudas. Yet so it is, whilst struggling with difficulties unequalled, perhaps, in any other diocese of British North America, his anxiety and solicitude for the destitute condition of these islands prompted him to more than ordinary exertions for their relief. About four years ago the Rev Mr. McSweeney of Dublin, under the Bishop's direction, paid a visit to Bermuda, and during the brief stay he made, rendered essential service to the cause of religion. At that time neither the civil nor military authorities were much disposed to second his exertions in favour of the Catholic soldiers or of the convicts confined on board the hulks. If those officials have since exhibited a higher sense of justice and impartiality, I think much is owing to the prudent but energetic measures adopted by that reverend gentleman. The Rev. Mr. Kennedy again visited the islands in the spring of last year, and remained here during seven or eight weeks, but it was not until the September following that the Bishop was enabled to establish a Priest here permanently; the growing religious necessities of the mission rendering such a step of vast importance to its stability and welfare.

The distance between Halifax and the Bermudas is, I believe between seven and eight hundred miles, nearly due south from the former port, and almost the only communication between both places is carried on by means of sailing packets, which start from Halifax upon the arrival there of the steamboats from Liverpool. The average length of the passage by these packets is about nine days. In the winter season especially the sea is rough and stormy, and you must traverse a considerable portion of the Gulf stream on your way. In addition to the many fortifications thrown up by the Government for the defence of the Island, Bermuda has a still more impregnable rampart against the assaults of an enemy, in the reefs, or ledge of rocks which unless on the south side, and to some extent there, completely begirt the island, stretching out into the sea to a distance of several miles. Even those who live on a sea-board of the North American continent, and to whom the terrible disasters caused by less dangerous reefs than those of Bermuda are familiar as matters of frequent occurrence, regard their approach to that iron bound coast with feelings of no inconsiderable anxiety, and the many fragments of ill fated vessels wrecked on the shore testify that such forebodings are too frequently well founded.—The charge for a passage by the packets is excessively high, and the accommodation which they afford of rather a paltry description. Before the appointment of the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh to the diocese of Halifax, no attempt had ever been made to establish a permanent mission in the Bermudas. It is wonderful when we consider the vast outlay such an attempt would require; for besides the heavy sums expended in getting to and from the Island, the price of almost every article of provision and clothing, is such as to deter persons in most circumstances, and with no government employment from settling here at all.

With the exception of a few families living in different parts of the island, the Catholic congregation consists of the soldiers professing that faith, belonging to the regiment of the artillery and engineer's stationed here from time to time, and as a matter of course varies with every succeeding detachment. There are some Catholics among the discharged soldiers employed at the dock yard, and some too at the common establishment at Ireland Island. Though the actual duties of the missionary are not yet