

name any one thing which she wished him to ask God for her soul. All she seemed to want was the form of a minister's prayers. I can quite understand this. Death-beds are great revealers of secrets. I cannot forget what I have seen of sick and dying people. This also leads me to believe that few pray.

Reader, I cannot see your heart. I do not know your private history in spiritual things. But from what I see in the Bible and in the world, I am certain I cannot ask you a more necessary question than that before you—DO YOU PRAY?

(To be Continued.)

Society for Pro. Christian Knowledge.

Tuesday, March 1st, 1853.

The Rev. Dr. RUSSELL in the Chair.

A letter was read from Archdeacon Shortland, dated "At Sea, near Madras, December, 1852." The following are extracts:—

"In the prospect of my arrival, within a few days at Madras, I am anxious to avail myself of the earliest opportunity of assuring you how much I have felt indebted to the Society for the books kindly placed at my disposal, previous to my leaving England. You will easily believe that this assistance was doubly valuable when I found myself most unexpectedly, at the last moment, a fellow passenger with a Roman Bishop (Murphy), and three priests, proceeding to reinforce the Mission of the Church of Rome at Secunderabad, one of our largest military stations in Southern India, immediately adjoining the capital of the Nizam. It is a painful thought that, to meet this array of our most formidable opponents, we have for the last two years had but a single Chaplain of the East India Company for an overwhelming English congregation, besides detached stations, with barabiko church, utterly unable to afford the necessary accommodation for our people, and an aged, though faithful native missionary clergyman, of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. . . . Throughout the extensive country included in the Nizam's dominions, there is not a single English clergyman, or a Protestant missionary of any denomination, besides those I have mentioned, and many millions of our fellow-creatures, and who must at no distant period become fellow-subjects, are thus 'lying' emphatically in darkness, and in the shadow of death."

Madras, January 10th.—I despatched this by the first mail after my arrival at Madras. You will be glad to hear that I found the Bishop in his usual excellent health. His Lordship leaves on a very long tour of Visitation in about a fortnight."

A letter from the Lord Bishop of Melbourne, dated "Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, October 7, 1852," was laid before the Board. The following are extracts:

"During the last ten months our population must have been at the least trebled; probably the increase has been much greater, for I have no means of ascertaining the exact number, while the means of religious instruction and the accommodation for public worship remain only what they were before. I do not think we have one more clergyman, or one more place of public worship, except two or three small tents or wooden buildings at the gold-fields, than we had when the discovery of this precious metal in such abundance produced such a complete change in the character of the colony. We had then two churches, St. Paul's in this city, and St. Paul's in Geelong, in progress; but neither of them is yet opened for service; although the former I hope, will be ready within a few weeks. Even so long as four years ago, our churches in this city and at Geelong were wholly inadequate to our wants, and many were driven from our communion, or gave up attempting to join the congregation on the Lord's day, because they could not obtain sittings for themselves. How much more than is this the case now! I believe that there are many hundreds in Melbourne, and there are thousands at our gold-fields, who would be thankful for the opportunity of attending the services of our Church, but are prevented from doing so by want of accommodation."

"I would wish our brethren at home to understand that the discovery of our gold-fields, producing, as it has produced already, and must produce hereafter, the vast increase in our population, makes us, at the present time, for the purpose of rendering the means of our Church for public worship and pastoral superintendence co-extensive with the wants of our people, in a very far worse position than we were before. Without the gold, and with some small assistance from England, we could have done very well; but now, unless our brethren at home help us, and help us largely and without delay, we shall be within two years in a much

worse condition, in respect to the number of clergymen and church accommodation, than we were on my first arrival at the colony. For it is to be remembered that, in general, men who are just beginning to make money rapidly are of all others the least disposed to give it to the Lord.

"A grant of money for our use here would do so very little good. It is, indeed, necessary that I should have an annual sum at my command as a reserve fund for making up any deficiency in the stipends of the clergy, and this I trust that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel will place at my disposal. But this is comparatively a small matter. What we want from England are men and buildings; clergymen, churches, and parsonage-houses. For the former we must depend upon a special fund, which I trust that those who feel the peculiar claims of the colony will raise on our behalf, together with such a grant as the Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel may feel justified in making from their general fund."

"For the latter I would now submit an earnest appeal to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. I have little doubt that if the churches and houses were sent, we should be able at no great interval of time to pay for them. My hope is, that if the Lord dispose the Society to adopt this plan, and if He incline the hearts of a sufficient number of faithful and able men to come out, we shall be able, with His blessing on our work, to obtain such a hold upon the people as to pay for every building soon after we get it, and thus enable the Society either to continue its aid, or to leave us to ourselves, as they may see fit."

The Secretaries stated that, since the receipt of the above letter, they had by desire of the standing Committee, communicated with R. Perry, Esq., a brother of the Bishop of Melbourne, and T. Turner, Esq., a friend of his Lordship, who had recommended Mr. S. Hemming, of Cliff House, Bristol, as a manufacturer of iron churches and houses. It appeared from papers laid before the meeting, that a good substantial iron church, with all fittings complete, for six hundred worshippers, would cost £1000; and that a good parsonage-house, completely finished, ready for occupation, including floors, would cost £262 10s. Such church and house might be fully erected within three weeks after landing. A sketch and plan of the iron church and parsonage were laid before the meeting.

The Rev. J. C. Cochran, in a letter, dated "Halifax, Nova Scotia," informed the Society that the Inhabitants of Turn's Bay, a settlement about twenty miles from Halifax, which he had visited in the course of his Missionary work, are making exertions for the erection of a Church.

The application on behalf of this church having been recommended by the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, the Board voted £50 towards the church at Turn's Bay.

News Department.

HOUSE OF LORDS, THURSDAY, MARCH 17.

THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

The Earl of Shaftesbury presented a petition from certain members of the Church of England resident at the Cape of Good Hope. They stated their apprehensions that a bill was about to be introduced, entitled "A Bill to explain and Amend the Laws relating to the Church in the Colonies." They implored the resistance of their lordships to such a measure, stating that it made no satisfactory provision for the just and salutary influence of the clergy and laity in the synods; while, on the other hand it invested the bishops with unlimited and irresponsible power. They believed that the bill would lead to a separation from the mother Church, and set aside the supremacy of the Crown in all but the name. They concluded with the prayer that "your petitioners, being warmly attached to the Church, and jealous of any innovations that may tend to lessen its usefulness or destroy its spiritual character, would prefer remaining as they are, conscientiously believing that all necessary rules and regulations can be beneficially introduced and enforced as heretofore, while they shall be preserved from the evil consequences attendant on local agitation and prejudices, and be permitted to enjoy a continuance of that liberty of conscience, and freedom of thought and action in spiritual matters which have greatly administered to the comfort of their souls, the social happiness of their families, the welfare of the community, and the stability of our Protestant institutions."

After some observations from Lord Beaumont and Lord St. Leonard's, the subject dropped.

CLERGY RESERVES CANADA.

Lord J. Russell postponed until Friday (this day) the committee on the Clergy Reserves (Canada) Bill, when

he would propose to omit the third clause relating to the Consolidate Fund. "So much of the said Act of the third and fourth years of her Majesty, chapter seventy eight, as charges the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland with, or authorises any payment thereout of the sums needed to supply such deficiency as in the said Act mentioned, shall from and after the passing of this Act be repealed." He proposed to take it as the first order of the day.

POSTAGE OF THE COLONIES.

Mr. F. Peel, in reply to Lord Stanley, said that some time must elapse before the postage plan for the colonies could be carried into effect. The plan was that all letters should be charged 6d. the half-ounce to or from any of our colonies, out of which £d. would be allotted to the colonies.

THE NEW BISHOP OF LINCOLN.—A friend informs us that we were quite right in discrediting the report that the New Bishop (John Canon) Jackson was a son of a Wesleyan Minister. He is a son of a gentleman residing in the neighbourhood of London: is an Oxford man, and took a first class in classics at the examination in the Easter term, of 1833. The following were a few of his fellow first class men—Viscount Canning, Postmaster-General; Liddell, Head Master of Westminster School and author of Greek Lexicon; Jelf, author of Greek Grammar; Vaughan, Professor of Modern History; Lowe, Secretary of the Board of Control; and six others. Soon after this Mr. Jackson won the theological prize essay, since which time he has been master of a proprietary school at Islington; curate of St. James', Muswell-hill; rector of St. James', Piccadilly; Canon of Bristol, &c., &c.—His contemporaries at Oxford, besides those we have mentioned, were—Gladstone, Sidney Herbert, the Duke of Newcastle (who graduated a year or two before him), and Cardwell, two years after him. As we mentioned last week, the new Bishop is comparatively unknown in print, and this is the secret of his rapid success in these polemical times. With cabinets united in politics and differing on religious points, he was prudent enough to see that the least said is the soonest mended, and the safest course for those who sought their way to a bishopric was through the path of moderation.

AN EXPENSIVE DIGNITY.—Yesterday a parliamentary paper was printed showing that the fees payable by officers of the army and navy in the different grades of the military order of the Bath amount to no less than £170 6s 8d.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT ON THE BRIGHTON RAILWAY.—THREE PERSONS KILLED.—Yesterday morning, shortly before seven o'clock, an accident of a frightful character took place at the Brighton station of the London and Brighton Railway, by which three of the company's servants lost their lives.

It appears that the engine which was to bring up the eight o'clock train to London had just emerged from the shed to be attached to the train, and on it were three persons, the driver, stoker, and engine-fitter, when the boiler blew up with a loud report, filling the station with a dense body of steam, which for several minutes, obscured the immediate scene of the catastrophe, and rendered it impossible for those in the vicinity to form anything like an idea of the extent of the injuries sustained.

The screams of dozens of persons at the station added to the general terror and confusion prevailing, and caused it to be supposed that a greater number had sustained injury. Upon the clearing away of the steam and smoke, it was found that the three servants of the company had been killed and the bodies frightfully mangled. The engine-driver had his head completely blown off from his neck and it was found some sixty yards from the engine; while the body of the stoker was found dismembered of both arms, and the head smashed into a shapeless mass. The engine fitter had both his legs blown off and his body dreadfully shattered. The remains of the unfortunate men were gathered up; and the force of the explosion may be imagined from the fact of portions of the bodies having been picked up at the corner of Surroy-street, some three hundred yards from the station. A piece of the engine—a heavy iron mass—was driven through the roof of the station, and fell two hundred yards from it.

It was fortunate that the accident occurred prior to the engine being attached, otherwise the loss of life among the passengers might have been awful indeed.

REDISTRIBUTION OF CHURCH REVENUES.—It is announced, as from authority, that the Bishop of London, immediately after the avoidance of the rectory of St. Andrew Undershaft, took measures for augmenting several poor benefices in the patronage of the see, by the appropriation of £500 per annum out of the revenues of that rectory.