

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LONDON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1838.

St. MARGARET'S BAY.—According to previous notice, a Clerical meeting for this district took place at St. Margaret's Bay, on the 22d ult.—As was expected, but few of the members could attend, an account of the great distance, and the wretched condition of the roads about this part of the province, which renders this mission very difficult of access. It is hoped, however, that the meeting was far from being least, in its beneficial effects.

After spending a short time in prayer at the Parsonage, the brethren proceeded to the church at 11 o'clock, A.M., where a very considerable congregation met them. The Rev. Dr. Shreve officiated, and delivered a most excellent discourse, from Jeremiah 6, 16—"Thus saith the Lord, ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." The preacher demonstrated the

necessity for every lover of the truth and of order, to make a strict inquiry into the pretensions of each of the numerous sects which disfigure the christian world; then showed some of the reasons for our hearty belief that the Church of England is the most conformable to the Apostles' discipline and doctrine; after which the congregation was called upon to consider the beneficial tendency of the beautiful service of our Liturgy, shewing how appropriate it is, with the assistance of God's Holy Spirit, to help men in "worshipping Him in spirit and in truth;" concluding by a strong appeal to the members of the church to exert themselves in support of this noble institution, so well adapted to convey to them and to their children, all the religious consolation which they stand in need of in this life and at the hour of death. They were also reminded of the benevolence of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, through whose means their forefathers had been supplied with the means of grace and salvation, at a time when they could not procure them at their own expense. In our opinion, such sermons should be preached frequently by the clergy. If the people are not well informed upon the peculiar tenets, the government, as well as the doctrines of the church, they are not to be depended upon, and may be led away by every novelty, and carried about by every wind of doctrine.

The number of communicants was not large but they were, we hope, from among that "little flock," which is in the light of the world, and the salt of the earth;" and their tears and devout behaviour shewed that they were not quite dead as regards spiritual things, and that they highly valued the present occasion. We trust this small number will increase, and that many of those who call themselves churchmen, (and there are many such in this mission) will no longer be satisfied with the name only, but will seek for a participation in that "inward and spiritual grace" which is the great end of the Church's sacraments and ordinances, and without which we can never enjoy or appreciate our own privileges.

The evening was spent in private reading of the Scriptures and our ordination vows, with meditation and friendly interchange of sentiments—concluding with prayer.

There is something peculiarly affecting and solemn in the assembling of a small number of those who have received so direct and heavenly a commission to "go and preach the Gospel to every creature," as that which we have the honour to bear, for the purpose of strengthening each other's hands by private conversation; by communicating each other's views on different parts of clerical duties, and by uniting with one heart and one mind, in solemn and devout prayer to their Divine Head and Master for his abundant blessing upon themselves, their flocks, their bishop, their absent brethren, and "the whole church militant here on earth." Surely, in the midst of two or three, thus met together, may we expect the pre-

sence of our adorable Redeemer, according to his promise; and we think that this little band of his humble ministers have not been disappointed in this. Our hearts have often "burned within us" while reading and meditating upon his holy word, and more particularly while approaching Him in the holy sacrament of his body and blood. It were greatly to be desired, in these troublous and dangerous times especially, that all the clergy would draw closer together, and do every thing in their power to "be perfectly joined together and nourished by that which every joint supplieth, to the edifying of themselves in love."—Nothing, we are persuaded, is more calculated to promote their own, as well as the church's spiritual welfare.—This might be the means of "increasing amongst us true piety and virtue." We would, therefore, venture to express the hope that before long Clerical Societies will be formed wherever the thing is practicable. And may they all be blessed with the same blessings which we desire for ourselves, and promote God's glory, and the salvation of souls.—*Communicated.*

MELANCHOLY CASUALTY.—On the last voyage of the packet Speculator from Halifax to this port, a passenger, Mr. LABAUME of the former place, unfortunately fell overboard and was drowned.—We understand that the vessel was going rapidly through the water at the time, and a heavy sea running, notwithstanding which every exertion was made to save him from a watery grave. Capt. Young and one of the hands immediately put off in the boat to endeavour to pick him up, and nearly perished in the attempt. How forcibly does such an event impress upon us the necessity of continued watchfulness, since we know not the day nor the hour when the solemn call may come. We go forth in the morning in the fulness of health and strength; but how little can we tell where our souls will be before the night sets in. May we have grace to walk in the fear of the Lord all the day long, and not put off a preparation for Eternity to a dying bed, on which we may never lie.

We understand that large and very successful meetings had been held in London and various other parts of England, in behalf of the Society for the propagation of the Gospel, and that they were still in progress. The Bishop was busily engaged in promoting these important objects. The Board had granted £50 for one year for a Curate to the Rev. Fitzgerald Uniacke, (whose voice we regret to hear is not yet restored) and the parish of St. George's at Halifax has met this vote by another of the like sum. This is as it should be. Mr. Uniacke is expected out in October, with the intention of spending the winter in Bermuda,—perfect rest from preaching for one year having been enjoined by his physician.

The Clerical Society of this District will meet (D. V.) at Shelburne, on the 3d of October.

WHITEHALL, July 10.

The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, nominating, presenting, and appointing the Rev James Bowstead, Doctor in Divinity, to the Bishoprick of the Isle of Man and Sodor, void by the death of Doctor William Ward, late Bishop thereof.

CANADA.—The Lord Bishop of Montreal held a Visitation of a part of the Clergy of the Province of Lower Canada in Christ Church, Montreal, on Wednesday the 8th August, instant. Twenty-two clergymen were present; comprising, we understand, those who hold charges within the Districts of Montreal, Three Rivers, and St. Francis. An excellent Visitation Sermon from Exodus xxxix. 30—"Holiness to the Lord," was preached by the Rev. George Mackie, Chaplain to the Lord Bishop; after which his Lordship delivered an impressive charge to the assembled Clergy.

A meeting of the Clergy present was subsequently held, and various matters of business, relating chiefly to the temporal prospects of the Church, were discussed both on this and the following day. His Lordship, in the course of these deliberations, took occasion to press upon the Clergy present the value and importance of Clerical Associations, as tending to promote vigour as well as unity of action in the ministerial body, and leading also to good results amongst the lay-members of our communion. His Lordship adverted also with much earnestness to the importance of a vigorous support of the journal established in behalf of the Church in this Diocese, as a vehicle for the advocacy of principles, the more extended dissemination of which in the community at large, and amongst the members of our communion in particular, is much to be desired.

An ordination was held in Christ Church, Montreal, on Sunday the 12th inst., when the Rev R. H. Bourne, Missionary at Rawdon, L. C., was admitted to the order of Priests. The Candidate was presented by the Rev. G. Mackie, and the ordination sermon was preached by the Rev. A. N. Bethune, Rector of Cobourg.

The Lord Bishop proceeded on Monday to Cornwall, where he proposed to hold a confirmation on the following day, and after administering the same rite in several of the intermediate places, to spend Sunday next, the 19th, at Brockville. From thence, he intends to proceed without delay to the western extremity of the Province, and to hold confirmations and consecrate churches (were required), on his return, at the various missions and parishes lying between Sandwich and Kingston—proceeding from the latter place to Perth and other stations in the Bathurst and Ottawa Districts. Visitations of the Clergy will probably be held, on his Lordship's return, both at Toronto and Kingston.—*Church.*

EXTRACTS FROM THE LIFE OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, BY HIS SONS.

"WESLEY'S LAST WORDS."

When about to bring the question of abolition before the house in 1791, he received the following animating charge, traced upon the bed of death by the faltering hand of the venerable Wesley:—

"Feb. 24, 1791.

"My dear sir,—Unless the Divine Power has raised you up to be as Athanasius *contra mundum*, I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that execrable villainy which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils; but if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? Oh, be not weary of well-doing. Go on in the name of God, and in the power of his might, till even American slavery, the vilest that ever saw the sun, shall vanish away before it. That he who has guided you from youth up may continue to strengthen you in this and all things, is the prayer of, dear sir, your affectionate servant, "JOHN WESLEY."

ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

"Think not that people of this land will long maintain a great church establishment from motives of mere political expediency. For myself, I value our Established Church as the means of preserving for us and for our children the blessings of the true religion; and I well know that to spread such a notion would be to inflict on it a fatal stroke."

MR. PITT'S DEATH.

"Jan. 22, 1805.—Quite unsettled and uneasy about Pitt, so to town. Heard bad account. Called on various friends and on Rose, who was quite overcome. He had been long at Putney, talking to Bishop of Lincoln. Physicians said all was hopeless. Jan. 23.—Heard from Bishop of Lincoln that Pitt had died about half-past four in the morning. Deeply rather than pathetically affected by it. Pitt killed by the enemy as much as Nelson. How do these events tend to illustrate the vanity of worldly greatness! Poor Pitt, I almost believe, died of a broken heart! for it is only due to him to declare, that the love of his country burned in him with as ardent a flame as ever warmed the human bosom, and the accounts from the armies struck a death's blow within."