

were at the church before the appointed time, but the congregation supposing it impossible for me to be there, were not assembled. Between twenty and thirty persons who saw us, followed to the church; but only one candidate of twenty who were prepared for confirmation was present. Remembering that even a few are precious in the sight of Him, whom we were endeavouring to serve, and that his ministers may well be thankful if the word spoken by them should be blest to a single hearer, I treated the few exactly as if the church had been crowded. I preached to them, confirmed the single candidate, and afterwards addressed them all, to encourage zeal in their holy calling, and in their affection for the church. We then proceeded as far as was possible over difficult hills, and a very rough road, in hopes of reaching Capt. Coffin's house, the approach to which we knew was not easy, before the night should overtake us. Capt. Coffin was to have met me in a boat at Greenwich, but this was rendered impossible by the violence of the storm. He has lately commenced his improvements, and at present the only comfortable access to his dwelling, which is on the river Nerepis, is by water. The night was dark, and we lost our way, which would not have been easily found by a stranger in the day. We struggled on, until our waggon, entangled with the stumps of trees, and nearly buried in mud, was immovable. A very kind person who had insisted upon attending us from Coates Hill, after a long struggle disengaged our waggon, but not until the horse had been thrown several times. It was now so dark, that we could not venture to move the carriage. I mounted a saddle-horse which we had with us, and followed what I supposed to be a road through the woods, but in vain; and we made up our determination to remain where we were for the night. Our guide, however, was anxious to make another effort, having heard some distant noise, and he finally discovered the house for which we were seeking. Capt. Coffin sent two men with lights, who took down fences, and guided us to his door, where he received us with a most kindly welcome.

ST. STEPHEN'S, N. B.

Sunday, August 30.—A hot day, after a night of rain. Our morning service was at Lower Mill Town, on the Scudiac (four miles), where another new and creditable chapel has been completed, through great exertions of Dr. Thomson; which he justly considered more important, because a population was rapidly growing, for whom it was most desirable to provide timely means for religious instruction. Many of the people are not members of the Church, but many of them have to choose their religious profession. The neat and well finished chapel (St. Peter's) and its burial-ground were consecrated; nine persons were confirmed; and I preached on all the solemnities of this day, which were probably strange sights to many of my hearers, whose feelings and habits may be estimated from the following fact:—The chapel was crowded by more than three hundred persons, some of whom came from the American side; several of these rose at different parts of the service, put on their hats, and walked out individually, having, probably, had enough of religious exercise. About the middle of the service, the dinner bell rang on the American side, and twenty or thirty persons rose together, put on their hats before they left the pew, and hurried away in a group. We may humbly hope that better acquaintance with the worship of the Church, may be blest to these rough people; as in other respects, so also in leading to more becoming feeling of the decency and order which should be reverentially entertained in the house and in the presence of God. Our afternoon was devoted to the parish church at St. Stephen's where I again preached, confirmed thirty-one persons, and made my usual address upon the present state and wants of the Church, and my earnest exhortation to every member of our communion, cordially to join in the exertions which are required, if the care of his own soul and of the souls of all most dear to him, be worthy of his regard. I had every reason to be well satisfied with the manner in which all I said was received by my hearers. The difference in the behaviour of this congregation from that which we had witnessed in the morning, was also gratifying.

Monday, August 31.—We drove to St. James's parish (six miles), where we found another of Dr.

Thomson's new churches, though not finished, in good forwardness; and it was a pleasing part of my duty, in my visit to this church, to encourage a warm and affectionate people to go on and complete their good work. One hundred and twenty persons were assembled for our service, to whom I readily preached, to exhort them to adorn their profession by a lively faith, and its happy fruit—an holiness and godliness of heart and life. We returned to St. Stephen's in time to meet several persons whom I was desirous to see.

Tuesday, September 1.—We set out, accompanied by a large party, for St. David's parish, seven miles on our road to St. Andrew's, from whence several members of the Church came to meet us at St. David's, and attended our service there. I preached, and confirmed eleven persons, who had been prepared by Dr. Thomson, who has this place under his charge, the extent of which, as will be seen by this Report, is such that I could not refuse his earnest entreaty to allow his son, the Rev. Sedgfield Thomson, to remain as his assistant, with whose help he officiates in five churches, besides occasionally visiting other places.

From the Rev. John Stevenson.

King's College, N. S. Jan. 27, 1836.

My Lord,—I am thankful to Divine goodness for the rapid progress that continues to be made in the cause of religion and civilization along the greater part of the Eastern shore. As the Church is just springing into vigour and order, out of the first rude and lifeless elements of the wilderness, it is still in an incipient and backward state, compared with more favoured parts of the country; but it is steadily and distinctly advancing from year to year, through higher and higher states of improvement. The most striking feature in the occurrences of the past year are preparations for the erection of two new churches, in places which were lately shrouded in almost heathen darkness, and had seen three generations rise and fall without any stated ordinance of Christianity. My first report, in 1832, conveyed a mournful representation of the great destitution of every means of religious instruction; in many parts several years usually transpired without an opportunity being offered of hearing a public prayer or a sermon; a nominal Christianity, especially at the more remote stations, was the natural result—a mere profession, without either understanding its principles, or feeling its practical operations: in very many places, however, the people were exempt from the vices of high civilization, and well disposed to listen to Divine things.

When the spiritual wants of this neglected portion of the Christian vineyard were made known to our ecclesiastical rulers, more efficient means were promptly taken to supply them;—books were liberally distributed—catechists were appointed to perform public worship—Sunday schools were established—and a messenger of the Gospel was more frequently sent to proclaim its glad tidings, to administer the sacraments, and to organize and direct the subordinate system of instruction. A chain of twelve lay-readers and ten Sunday schools now environs the coast, and cooperates, though humbly, yet effectually, with the visiting Missionary in disseminating among old and young that knowledge which maketh wise unto salvation. It has pleased God to bless these humble endeavours “to make His ways known unto them” with cheering success. They have become, as a body, much better instructed in their duty to God and man; and appear to lead more sober, righteous, and godly lives. Between four and five hundred have been prepared for confirmation, and been admitted by your Lordship to that solemn ordinance of our Church. One-third of these have knelt at the table of the Lord. The inhabitants of one settlement have built a small church at considerable expense, chiefly from their own resources; and two other places, with the aid of the Society, are zealously following the example. There is ample field left for the rise of several other churches, and they may be expected gradually to spring up at the different stations as they become ripe for the undertaking.

I look anxiously forward to the time when the churches now in hand shall be completed, and their charge committed to a resident pastor. The place has now arrived at that mature and promising state,

when the labours of the Visiting Missionary should cease, and those of the stationary Minister begin; and I learn with gratitude and delight, that this most desirable consummation is contemplated by our Venerable Society, the blessed instrument, in the hands of Divine Providence, for evangelizing the world. That section of the coast over which my duties usually extend must now contain about three thousand souls, and the population is increasing with astonishing rapidity: nearly three-fourths of the whole inhabitants are already members of the English Church, and every year is adding to the number and swelling the majority, if the present favourable circumstances are properly improved, this, therefore, promises, under the favour of God, to be one of the strongest portions of the Colonial Church.

The poor people, I have no doubt, would contribute to the utmost extent of their means for the maintenance of a Clergyman; but much dependence should not be placed on this source of income—they can barely procure a scanty subsistence for their families, and nothing but the force of necessity would induce a Clergyman to accept of pittance for his services, which, in very many instances, would go to deprive hungry children of their daily bread; but, far be it from us, that the poverty of our flock should preclude them from the blessings of pastoral care! No;—it will give them a stronger claim, I am persuaded, on the attention of that Venerable Society, which is treading in the steps of Him “anointed to preach the Gospel to the poor.” Little, I would charitably presume, are those acquainted with the situation of this country, and the usefulness of that Society, who are endeavouring to destroy its means of Christian benevolence, and to throw upon the people the burden of supporting their Clergy. May God avert such a calamity; it would utterly subvert the established religion, and prove fatal to the spread and the existence of Christianity, in any particular but the name, throughout all the new and poorer settlements.

The shore I as received a considerable share of attention during the last year. The whole circuit was performed by the Rev. C. Weeks; and part of it by the Rev. J. Stannage. At three different seasons—Easter, Midsummer, and Christmas, it was visited by myself; passing down and returning nearly upon the same track each time. The latter visit was the first instance in which any minister whatever had attempted to explore these shores in winter, and it was considered altogether an impractical undertaking; this was my own impression; at the same time, it was painful to reflect that so large and deserving a body of our people should be entirely cut off from the ministrations of a Clergyman during the most beneficial period of the year, when the men had returned from their pursuits, to repose with their families, and their thoughts being disengaged from the urgent cares of the world, were more susceptible of being turned upon their spiritual and eternal interests. At the earnest desire of your Lordship, seconded by my own wishes, I therefore resolved “to go forth in the strength of the Lord God,” and make the experiment. Many were the hardships and labours I had to undergo in pervading this pathless and ice-bound coast, amid the severities of a Nova Scotia winter; but they fell far short of the obstacles I had apprehended, and readily gave away before me when they came to be actually encountered. I was wonderfully preserved by Providence, and suffered nothing from the effects of fatigue, or of constant exposure to the inclemencies and vicissitudes of the weather. I was only one day interrupted from duty, and was enabled to observe every engagement with punctuality. In the course of three weeks' actual employment, I visited seventeen different settlements, and performed thirty full services, besides a great variety of other duties. Although my congregations were not generally so large as in summer, I think this visit was, in many respects, peculiarly blessed by God, and rendered one of the most salutary and useful I ever made to the coast.

We commend this whole statement of the spiritual condition of the Eastern shore of this province, to those who would seem to cast the exertions of our Missionaries into the shade, and may probably be surprised to find that “three fourths of the people are already members of the Church,” from whose Bishop and Pastors they have had repeated visits.—Ed. C. C.