

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1853.

JUBILEE OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

This event was celebrated in this City on Wednesday evening last, by a very numerous and respectable Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bible Society and its friends, in the Temperance Hall. The chair was filled by the Honorable and Venerable CHIEF JUSTICE, who spoke to the following effect:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—When I look around me from this Chair, and see so many Members of this Society who have for years been its zealous and able supporters, I cannot help asking myself, "Why am I seated here?" When your Committee waited upon me to honour me with a request to preside at this meeting, I reminded them that I was not a Member of the Society, and stated that there were many old and respectable Members of the British and Foreign Bible Society to whom that compliment should be paid in preference to me. They replied, that although I had not heretofore been a Member, they hoped I should be induced to become one by the perusal of papers which they then presented to me, and were pleased to add, that it was their desire upon this interesting occasion to see the Chair filled by a person of my age and standing in this community.

As they urged this request with some earnestness, I thought it would be unbecoming in me to refuse it without taking it into consideration, and promised to give them an answer on the following day. After a day's consideration, I determined to join the Bible Society, and to comply with the request with which the Committee had honoured me of presiding at this Jubilee Meeting.

Fifty years, to the majority of those now before me, doubtless appears a long, long period to look back upon. To me the recollection of the circumstances that attended the formation of this Society is as vivid as if it had been formed during the past year. The arguments of its advocates and its opponents are still fresh in my memory. I will not detain you by detailing the arguments then used in its favour. The same arguments continue to be used for its support, and they will be ably urged upon you in the course of the evening; but not having been one of its early supporters, in justice to myself and to many worthy and pious persons, who also declined supporting it, I feel it right to state the views which were then taken of the proposal to form a coalition of all denominations of Christians to circulate the Bible without note or comment.

We saw professing Christians so much divided upon many points of doctrine, that they would not meet to worship God in the same building; and it was doubted whether, when that was the case, they would unite for any religious object, without such a compromise of principle as would lead to confusion, indifference and infidelity. Our feelings, our interests, we may sacrifice if we please in order to live peaceably with others, but Religious principles are too sacred to become the subject of compromise. Even political principles are rarely compromised without producing vacillation and weakness; but no evils of that kind are to be compared with the danger of sacrificing Religion to Expediency.

Such were the conscientious and cautious views which were taken upon this subject by most of the Pastors and many of the Members of the Church of England—nor should such caution be censured. If it may sometimes retard the progress of improvement, it often prevents the rash adoption of error.

Happily, however, experience has shown us that those who profess the fundamental truths of Religion, although differing upon minor points, may safely unite to circulate the Word of God, without entering upon these doubtful disputations which the great Apostle to the Gentiles deprecates in the 14th chapter of his Epistle to the Romans. This result has already been produced by the Bible Society, and with the Divine blessing it may effect a more intimate union among the members of the Church of Christ. Subjects of the Redeemer's Kingdom, Soldiers of the Cross, may continue to fight under the same Banner, although they may not all wear precisely the same uniform.

When we look back upon the fifty years which have nearly passed since the origin of this Society, what wonderful progress has Science made during that period. The earth and the ocean are traversed with a celerity which it would then have been deemed madness to predict. Blessed be God, His Word is advancing with almost equal rapidity, and this Society has

been made the honoured instrument of spreading it abroad. Little if any opposition to it now exists. The venerable and pious Primate of the English Church, with many of our Prelates and Clergy, have not only ceased their opposition, but have become its advocates, and I hope that the whole body of the Church will follow their example,—and may this Society continue its exertions until, with the blessing of God upon its labors, the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The zealous and worthy Secretary, S. L. Shannon, Esqr. then read an admirable Report, which of course will be printed, and thus speak for itself. Then came a number of excellent speeches, many of which would have done credit to Exeter Hall. The Speakers were Revd. Geo. W. Hill, W. Pryor, Jr. Esq., Revd. Dr. Richey, Rev. Mr. Geikie, Hon. J. W. Johnston, Rev. Mr. Martin, Mr. Smith, the Agent, &c. A seaman belonging to H. M. S. Cumberland, was also introduced, who had acted the part of Colporteur in various parts of the world, and whose plain unvarnished statements excited a good deal of interest.

An excellent spirit pervaded the addresses from the platform, and appeared also to animate the large assembly, if we may judge from the signs of approbation which followed every expression of attachment to the great doctrines and principles of the Bible. The interest of the meeting was kept up to the very last, and the effect cannot but be beneficially felt on the future operations of the Society, and the success of its noble and godlike objects. A collection was taken up, amounting to upwards of £20. We observe that a good meeting was held at St. John, N. B. last week, Mr. Justice Parker in the chair.—Collection £63.

FISHERMAN'S CHURCH.

THE kind friends of the poor people at Turn's Bay, who have thus far helped me to raise, in that destitute place, a House of Prayer, will be pleased to know, that on Sunday the 9th inst. the Building raised on the 10th August was used for the first time for the worship of God. It is believed that all present felt the force of the Psalmist's words, "I was GLAD when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." And truly, if any cushioned and well clad frequenter of our city Churches, had looked in that morning, on the shoeless, coalless and bonnetless members of that congregation, he or she would have needed no other evidence of their case being one that demands assistance. We sat on rough seats and knelt on a rough floor (all knelt) and the preacher's pulpit was wanting. But still it is hoped that the voice of prayer and praise was not less acceptable on high. The red flag of England waved from the spire over our heads, to give notice to the neighbouring settlements, but the high winds prevented the people at a distance from attending. Christian Reader! This work has so far gone on in faith, and we are thankful for the unsolicited aid hitherto sent in. But heavy engagements are now to be met, for which large assistance is promptly needed. Will each and all of you kindly help us as soon as these lines meet your eyes?

I have only received since last announcement:

From Miss Artz,	£0 5 0
A poor friend,	0 3 1½
Three females,	0 3 9

JAS. C. COCHRAN, Miss'y.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

WE perceive from our exchanges that Rev. Mr. Tuckwell, "Principal of the Theological Institute at St. John's and Precentor of the Cathedral," has lately sailed for England, and has previously received very gratifying Addresses from his parishioners of St. Thomas' Church, headed by the Lt. Governor, and accompanied by a substantial evidence of their sincerity, in the shape of a purse containing one hundred sovereigns. This is as it should be.

ECCLESIASTICAL.—On Sunday the 25th of September, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese held an Ordination in St. Paul's Church, at Trinity; when Mr. John Moreton and Mr. Josiah Darrell, of the Theological Institution in St. John's, were made Deacons; and the Rev. Charles Walsh, of Island and Bishop's Coves in Conception Bay, and the Rev. Thomas Holland, of Sandy Point in St. George's Bay, were ordained Priests. The Sermon was preached by the Rev. T. M. Wood, Rector of Trinity and Rural Dean, who also presented the Candidates, and together with the Rev. B. Smith of King's Cove, assisted the Bishop in the laying on of hands. The Rev. Messrs. Crouch and Freer, the former assistant in the extensive mission of Trinity, and the latter attending the Bishop in his voyage of Visitation,—took part in the service. All these Clergymen are Missionaries of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.—*St. John's Times*, Oct. 5.

MELANCHOLY DISASTER.

THE public mind has been painfully agitated during the week by the mournful intelligence of the loss of eleven lives, by the wreck of the Steamer *Fairy Queen*, plying between P. E. Island and Pictou. The only names of the sufferers that we have heard, are those of two Misses Dewolf, and Dr. McKenzie of the Army, who is thought to have sacrificed his own life in the hope of saving theirs. We deeply sympathise with the friends of those who have thus suddenly been snatched away by this trying dispensation. May it be sanctified to the good of those who remain, and "are ready to die." M. J. Wilkins, Esq. and Mr. Lydiard and a Mr. Cameron were saved by clinging to pieces of the wreck, on which they floated several miles to land. Surely they who have thus been preserved from a watery grave need no other voice to tell them whose they are, and whom they are henceforth bound to serve. "I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living"—must surely be the first resolution to which their providential deliverance has given rise. The case of the two young ladies is peculiarly touching. A few years ago they were the inmates of a comfortable and happy home. Since then, first their mother, and next their father, have passed away—leaving them orphans. They were just on their way to England, as we hear, to find in new and tender connexions a pleasing refuge from former trials. Friends, young and old, were here to greet them as they passed on. But alas! instead of the expected meeting the sad tidings of their mournful fate came with lightning speed and the lightning's shock, to the hearts of these assembled friends! Their only consolation must be the hope that Jesus may have been with them as he was with the disciples of old, walking on the dark and stormy wave and saying to their tender and heavy hearts, "it is I, be not afraid."

Great blame is attached to the Captain and crew of the Steamer for deserting the poor sufferers, and we have as yet heard nothing to extenuate the transparent barbarity of that base and cowardly desertion of those committed to their charge.

We wonder that a more detailed account of the awful catastrophe has not been drawn up and signed by the parties saved.

Since writing the above, we have seen in the *Colonist* the following account:—

WRECK OF THE FAIRY QUEEN.—We have been favoured with the following extract of a letter addressed to a gentleman of this city, from Pictou; by one of the surviving passengers. It brings the horrowing spectacle of the wreck and its attendant horrors most vividly before the mental vision:

"We left Charlotte-town on Friday morning about 11 o'clock, blowing strong from N. W.—very heavy sea outside, and squally—wind right aft. After we turned Point Prim, made a good run until off Carriboe, when the tiller rope broke. Boat lurched to, and shipped several seas, carrying away the doors opposite both gangways. After a time, amid considerable confusion, we spliced the rope, but the boat had been strained, and made water so fast before we (the passengers) knew much about it, as to partially extinguish the fires. We could not then run the boat on her course, as she flew up in the wind, not having sufficient way on her. After some time we got up steam enough to keep her on her course again, but the water finally extinguished the fires. We came to an anchor, and tried to keep her free; and I cannot help thinking that if the crew had used the same exertions the passengers did, we could have succeeded, and at least kept the boat afloat, but the crew seemed paralyzed, and there appeared to be a total want of discipline throughout. I was, thank God, perfectly self-possessed, and succeeded in keeping all at work but the crew, (with the exception of one or two of the latter.) As matters became hopeless, I told the captain to get the largest boat afloat, to ease the ship, and to drop it astern ready for use. The second boat we also had lowered, and dropped astern too. I told the captain to get into that boat himself, and see that they were both kept ready, and cautioned him repeatedly about any of the men slipping off the painter, or cutting themselves adrift, and leaving the passengers; and several times told the manager or clerk the same thing. I said we would remain as long as the boat would float, or hold together, and take to the boats only as a last resource. The boat held out as long, or longer than I thought she would. Went aft to say the boats would be wanted immediately, as we would probably be either thrown abroad, or buried with her for a time, and they could pick up the survivors, and make the best of their way to land. When I went aft, I took hold of the ropes to see if all was right, and I think the boats were still fast, but immediately the rope came aboard, and I knew the cowards had left us to our fate. I could get no answer from any of them, although they could hear every word I said. We wanted them to take the female passengers, but could get no answer—they quietly drifted astern, feeling certain that nobody could be left to tell the fate of the others. The passengers generally behaved exceedingly well, and resigned to their fate.—We all collected on the upper deck, and awaited the