

For the Colonial Churchman.

THE CHURCH IN ST. MARGARET'S BAY.

Although not more than twenty two miles from Halifax, this extensive settlement is very little known. The want of communication with other parts of the Province, is so great, that the generality of our neighbours know this place only by name. This induces the writer, Messrs. Editors, to offer to your readers, a brief sketch of the Church in St. Margaret's Bay.

About fifty or sixty years ago, the first settler established himself on these rough shores; and since that time, the population has increased to about twelve hundred souls. These are scattered here and there along a coast forty miles in length, on which there is nothing that may be called a road, except six or seven miles on the eastern side of the Bay. The majority of the inhabitants are of French and German descent; and they have always professed to belong to the Church of England, except about two hundred, who have embraced the tenets, some of the Methodists, and some of the Baptists. Our present Bishop, while Rector of St. Paul's, Halifax, was the first clergyman of the church who visited this place. And for a long course of years, from the scarcity of clergymen, this, on many accounts, interesting settlement, was left without the regular attendance of a minister of the Gospel: and thus a large number of poor souls lived in ignorance and all its consequences, and many perhaps died without ever hearing the name of Him through whom alone we have access to the Father. It is true, that some parts of the Bay were now and then visited, but these visits were so short and so rare, owing to the many other duties which the Rector of St. Paul's had to perform, that it was impossible thus fully to supply the spiritual wants of the people. When, however, it so pleased the Almighty God, that the number of clergy was increased in this province, St. Margaret's Bay received more attention. The Bishop was enabled to send ministers there, who often remained a short time in the place. Of this number was the Rev. John Stevenson, of whom the people always speak in the most grateful and affectionate terms. It was here also that the much regretted Rev. M. B. Desbrisay commenced his ministerial career. All these generous missionary visits were not to be lost. Many of the inhabitants became zealous supporters of the church, and shewed their zeal about twelve years ago, by building a church in the French Village, which is the centre of the eastern side of the Bay. This is a very neat edifice and is no small ornament to the settlement. It is capable of containing from three to four hundred persons. With the zealous efforts of the people, this church was finally completed two years ago, and the inhabitants having undertaken to support a minister, the Bishop was enabled to station one among them, who was ordained in the church on the 22d June 1834, and has had the satisfaction, since his taking charge of this mission, to receive constant marks of respect and gratitude from the people in general. Divine service is now performed every Sunday morning in the church; and in the afternoon in the lower part of the Bay, five miles from the church, and at the head of the Bay, alternately. Besides these places where the missionary officiates regularly, there is Hubbert's Cove, nine miles across the water, where he goes once a month in the summer; and Mill Cove, Peggy's Cove, and South-West, which he visits as often as he can. A church is much wanted in the lower part of the Bay, and one at Hubbert's Cove, but it is impossible for the people to go to that expense without some little assistance, though many of them are very liberal, and would go to the full extent of their means. The principal hindrance to a clergyman's usefulness here, is the want of good roads, it being necessary to travel chiefly on foot through the woods and over the rocks which every where abound. It is encouraging, however, to know that the people are willing to be taught, and glad when they can do any thing for the comfort of their minister.

But it is with much sorrow that the present missionary sees yet a great deal more work to do than he is able to perform. Several settlements, from their distance, and the water that separates them, are in great need of instruction, which it is not easy to afford; and a large number of children are growing up in lamentable ignorance, not however without

much anxiety on the part of the parents to have them instructed.

Every Sunday morning, before Divine service, the missionary meets between thirty and forty children, (all those from the immediate neighbourhood, who are willing to attend) in the church, where they receive religious instruction and are taught the principles of the church, both out of their catechism, and the word of God. In this manner, it is to be hoped, that those young persons who are thus nurtured from their very youth in the courts of the Lord will become firm and zealous supporters of religion in after life. This it appears, to the writer, should be the great aim of every clergyman, Messrs. Editors. He should endeavour to form the rising generation upon sound principles. The doctrines of the church, in every respect, should be explained to them; and especially the great and fundamental truths of the Gospel, such as the daily renewing of the soul by the operation of the Holy Spirit, should be well inculcated on their minds. And as we live in times when many of our tenets are assailed from all quarters, by those who differ from us, it would seem essential to make our Sunday-school children well acquainted with the true sense of every part of our form of worship and ordinances. There is no doubt but if our people were better acquainted with the doctrines of the church, they would not be so often "carried away by every wind" of new doctrines which divide and tear asunder the christian church. If the missionary in this place could have all the children that belong to his congregation well brought up--if he could give them a proper understanding of all the ordinances of their church, together with true religion--true humility, and a sincere desire to do nothing but that which is pleasing unto God--he would consider that this will one day be the best mission--the most united and prosperous parish, in Nova-Scotia.--May the Great Giver of every good gift bestow His blessing upon the labours of all his humble Servants, and especially in a country like this, where the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few!" Amen.

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CHRISTIAN UNITY.

A patron of the Colonial Churchman submits for insertion in its columns, the following extract from the 'Pastoral Letter' (for the year 1832) "to the Clergy and members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America." The Bishops of that admirable Church assemble in General Convention, and on every triennial occasion conclude their counsels with a Pastoral Letter to the fellow-members of their Communion.

I was lately asked "How far are Christians of different denominations justified in conceding to each the more distinctive and unessential points in difference between them?" I knew not what answer to afford, and in order to assist the judgment of those willing to arrive at a wise and proper conclusion, offer the following judicious opinion of the American Bishops:--

"It is expedient for the maintaining of peace and of friendly offices among different denominations, that each of them should sustain the cause of God and of godliness by such means as are presented by their peculiar organizations;--exercising towards every other all the forbearance and all the charity which may seasonably be enacted by a regard to the fallibility of the human understanding, and by the workings of unperceived prejudice, in ourselves, and in others with whom we have to do; and all the esteem which may be thought due to any virtues which they may possess, or to any good deeds which they may perform. This is a species of charity which may be maintained without the abandonment of principle." Q.

Ordination.--At a special ordination held in the Monumental Church in this city, [Richmond,] on the 23d June, by the Bishop of Virginia, the Rev. Martin P. Parks, lately professor of Mathematics in Randolph Macon college, and a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal connexion, was admitted to the order of deacons.--*Southern Churchman.*

Christ Church, Baltimore.--The pews in this handsome edifice, lately erected by the congregation of the Rev. Dr. Johns, at the corner of Gay and Fayette streets, have recently been sold; the total amount of sales was \$31,175.--*Ibid.*

A Noble Deed.--On the morning of the second day of the Session of the Board of Missions, the Bishop of New York announced, informally, that a gentleman, who desires his name to be concealed, had just given, through him, \$10,000, to be appropriated, under the direction of the Board, to missions in the South-West, and \$5,000 for the Missionary purposes in the diocese of New York.

YOUTH'S COMPANION.

For the Colonial Churchman.

"Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

I have lately been led to serious reflection on the above command of God, by witnessing what I hope never to witness again. I saw an aged woman of fourscore years and upwards, tottering and toiling in the woods some distance from her own house, gathering pieces of wood to enable her to cook her scanty meal, and carrying them home in her feeble arms. In doing so she was obliged to pass by the house of her son, the labour of whose hands a kind Providence has crowned with success, and who possesses much more than is sufficient to supply the wants of his own family. And I was informed that his arm is never extended to relieve in any way the wants of her who gave him birth,--and who took care of him when he was wholly unable to take care of himself. How sinful is such conduct from a son towards his aged parent? And surely the time will come when the still small voice of his own conscience will tell him that he has transgressed the fifth commandment by neglecting his duty to his aged mother.

It is assuredly the duty of every child, whether young or old, to do every thing in his power to add to the comfort and happiness of his parents and to make their declining age easy, by speaking kindly to them, and with a willing heart supplying all their wants as far as his Heavenly Father has given him the means. And He who is the parent of us all has promised that the child who for conscience sake thus keeps and fulfils the 5th commandment, may be sure that it will be well with him, and that he shall live so long on earth as infinite wisdom sees good for him; and that what he may seem to be cut short of on earth shall be abundantly made up in eternal life. But on the other hand, the child who neglects to honour his father and his mother, is threatened with eternal punishment.

But even after a child has grown up to years of manhood, and has left his father's house, it is still his bounden duty to comply with the wishes of his parents, provided it is neither criminal nor totally inconsistent with his happiness. It is still his duty to do all he can to promote their comfort and happiness in any way, to endeavour to relieve their anxieties in small matters as well as great. In contributing to their support when their circumstances require it. In watching them and waiting upon them when laid down on the bed of sickness, or when afflicted by the hand of Providence in any other way; and kindly bearing with their infirmities in advanced years.--for when can old age find indulgence if it does not meet with it at the hands of their own children? Heart-rending indeed it is when an aged parent is deserted by his own child, and obliged to seek his living among strangers. Yet occurrences of the kind are frequently to be met with. Reader! have you at any time fallen short of your duty to your father or your mother? If you have, and they are still spared to you, at once acknowledge, such your neglect to them, and ask their forgiveness. Or are their bodies now mouldering in the dust, and their spirits gone to an eternal world? If such be the case, then delay not now that you have time in imploring forgiveness from your heavenly Father,--otherwise your own parents may rise up in judgment against you. In fine, let all remember the divine precept--"Children obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord." D.

July 10th, 1836.

A MAN EXECUTED AT BOSTON, 1674.

My disobedience to my parents brought this misery upon me. My father gave me good instructions when I was a child; but I regarded them not. I would not go to school, when my father would have sent me to it. I would not go to a trade, when my father would have put me to one. After my father's death, I would not be subject to them that had the care of me: I ran away from them; and after that I ran away from several masters. Thus I run into the jaws of death.

Christianity--prepares substantial truths alike for minds of all ranks--simple enough for the simplest--lofty enough for the soaring.