REV. DR. STEWART, LORD BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

> BY THE REV. JOHN P. R. HENSHAW, D. D. (Now Bishop of Rhode Island.)

Soon after the commencement of the present century, at a meeting of the Directors of the English "Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts," a young education, animated with a fervent piety less seldom carriage extremely awkward, the expression of his and lives of men: and yet there was so much of heart met with in the higher ranks of life, came forward to offer himself as a candidate for missionary work. His mind had been especially directed to the East Indies the ties which bound him to society, to his kindred and manners, and the kindness and friendliness of his ministry than the humble missionary of St. Armond. honour: to expose himself to all the perils of the sea, the enervating influence of an oriental clime, and the malaria of the jungles of Hindoostan, if the desire of and persuade the ignorant Hindoos to forsake the errors of the Shaster, and embrace the glorious truths of the Gospel. But a circumstance occurred at the meeting which changed his purpose, and gave an entirely different direction to his future 16. A least of the said to me, 'Stewart, you have been buried long enough in this wilderness. There is too little refined and intelligent society here for a man of your family and taste, you had better go to Three Rivers.' But I answered, I am well contented with II answered, I am well contented with II answered, I am well contented with II answered in the man been in communion with a man of a single eye and devoted heart, whose soul was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the gospel, and whose great aim in life was to promote human happiness and divine glory.

In answer to sa incommunion with a man of a single eye and devoted heart, whose soul was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the gospel, and whose great aim in life was to promote human happiness and divine glory.

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In answer to an inquiry with respect to the success

HAS constantly on hand a beautiful Assortment of Ladies French my station. The Lord has placed me here, and has was read from one of the Society's missionaries in the of his labours, he replied as nearly as I can recollect followed my poor labours with his blessing. I have no province of Lower Canada, written in a style of utter in the following terms, "when I came to this seigniory wish to go to Three Rivers, nor do I know of anything despondency. The Missionary stated that the seat six years ago, there was no place of worship and no that would tempt me to change situations with your of his mission was in all respects the most unpromis- minister of religion throughout this whole region of lordship. ing that could be selected. It was in a Seigniory bordering upon the frontiers of Vermont, which had become the head was of the most worthless character. Freed from the become the head-quarters of a band of counterfeiters, restraints of morality and religion, many of them lent missionary of the Cross, and such, it is believed, who had, under the protection of a foreign government, "gloried in their shame," and looked with suspicion he continued, nothwithstanding his subsequent change carried on the manufacture of spurious bills of the and dread upon every attempt that was made to in- of residence, and elevation to the highest dignity of banks of this Union; and was also the common receptroduce among them the light and influences of the the Church, to the latest period of his life. The Provitacle of all the rogues and thieves who fled from- gospel of Christ. On my first arrival here, so strong dence of God called me to a distant part of the countries. justice in the United States. In short, that the popu- and general was the opposition to my settlement, that try, to prosecute preparatory studies for the sacred lation was of the most worthless and unprincipled kind, no tamily could be induced for love or money, to rethat all his efforts to promote their moral and spiri- ceive me as a boarder, and I was almost on the point duties, so that my opportunities of personal intertual improvement had been entirely unavailing, and of abandoning the field in despair, as my predecessor course with the interesting subject of this sketch were he desired the privilege of abandoning the mission and had done, when I met with a presbyterian lady an chiefly confined to the few interviews I had with him returning home. Here was a case of peculiarly trying nature to the benevolent directors of that missio- a messenger of salvation, and for the love of Christ, nary society. Their expenditures, labours and prayers, bade me welcome to her habitation. On the first vigour of health, and I found him in private interso far as related to this particular station, had for occasion of my officiating as a missionary; in the only course, to be the most humble and holy man of God, years been of no avail. The agent whom they had school-house then erected in the neighbourhood, but while the faithful discourse he addressed to the peoemployed was utterly discouraged, and recommended few were present, and they in consequence of earnest ple of my charge manifested that he had lost none of the relinquishment of so hopeless an effort, and yet it solicitation; and of this small number, one of the his honest simplicity and warm-heartedness as a the districts were in perishing need of the restraints and purifying influences of the Gospel—and the blessing of the God of missions which I advanced. This, however, I conof the God of missions might render it effectual to the salvation of even such reprobates as they. The inquiry seemed to be, "Whom shall we send? and who flicted by the arrows of truth. This beginning, trying this continent to exercise the responsible daties of the will go forth?" This inquiry was impressed on the as it was, not only to flesh and blood, but to faith episcopal office as Lord Bishop of Queber. In the mind of the Candidate for the Indian Mission then also, only served as a stimulus to more zealous exer- elevated station to which he had been consecrated, his present, and grace prompted him to say—"Here am tions in dependence on the blessing of Him who hath missionary spirit hurned with an ardour more intense, I, send me." He could not endure the thought that promised 'my word shall not return unto me void, and his missionary labours were more abundant than any post where the banner of the Cross had been set but it shall accomplish that which I shall please, and before. Years rolled away, and I was so favoured in up should be abandoned to the enemy, and unpromising as the aspect of the case was, he sa'd-"That is In the strength of the Lord God I went forth and in friend of my youth. Our last interview took place in the place for me. If the board will accept them, my services are at their command. I will go and meet scattered families in the settlement, and by those was then on his way to England chiefly for the benefit this army of Philistines in the name of the God of marks of kindness and charity to the poor which my of his health. His cheeks were sunken, his legs Israel, whom they have defied. I will go relying fortune enabled me to perform, I gradually found acupon the promise, "When the enemy cometh in like cess to the hearts of the people without weariness or suffering from the effects of a partial paralysis, his a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift a standard suspicion—'in season and out of season,'—in the physical energies seemed to be worn out by his long against him." This disinterested offer was gratefully assemblies on the Sabbath, and in social meetings and arduous services; and my mind yielded to the accepted, and in or about the year 1805, the Hon. and during the week from house to house, 'I ceased not sad conviction that his useful career was about draw-Rev. Charles Stewart left his native land, to spend to preach repentance towards God, and faith towards ing to a close. But he appeared like a shock of corn the remainder of his days in preaching the Gospel our Lord Jesus Christ.' The blessing of the Holy fully ripe, ready to be gathered in his season. The and edifying the Church of Christ in one of the wild- Spirit accompanied my humble labours. Many were result proved that he crossed the Atlantic to lay his est and most unpromising regions of North America. savingly converted to God. A general reformation bones in the land of his ancestors. "He rests from And never, perhaps, was there an instance in which took place in public morals, and now, two churches— his labours and his works do follow him." Those the effects of the Gospel were more strikingly manifest, one here and another at Missisquoi Bay—are filled works (animating incentive to Christian effort) prove what a vast amount of good may be achieved by the -"the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for change my heart is filled with joy, and I exclaim with

rose," than in the scene of his labours. this article (then a youth of nineteen, recently gradua- led him to give me a very modest and anexaggeted at one of our northern universities) in compliance rated statement of the extent and efficacy of his missionwith the urgent invitation of Mr. Stewart, went to aid ary labours. His efforts for the salvation of souls were him in his great work, by performing such mission- not confined to the seigniory in which he was stationed. ary services on the frontier of. Vermont, as a candi- No! but in spite of the peltings of the storms, and the date for orders licensed by the Bishop might lawfully rigour of the cold, which in that hyperborean region be engaged in. On arriving at his residence, I found reached a degree far below zero, wrapped in his no splendid or showy mansion, but a low unpretend- buffalo robes, and mounted on his one horse sleigh, he ing, one story frame house was the chosen abode of would penetrate many miles to the north, for the sake this member of one of the noblest families of Great of proclaiming to the scattered inhabitants of the Britain. It was placed on the brow of a lofty hill, at Canadian wilderness the unsearchable riches of Christ. the foot of which lay the village of St. Armand, whose And again, under the promptings of a zeal which principal ernaments were the school-house, where the overleaped all national boundaries, and could not EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BOOK AND JOB WORK chrildren of the villagers and the farmers of the confine its efforts to the meeting of the mere claims neighbouring country might be instructed in the wis- of kindred, parishioners or countrymen, he often endom which would be useful to them on earth, and the tered the territory of the United States, and in the Church, whose simple spire pointed to the heavens __ frontier towns of Swanton, Shelden, Fairfield, &c., both monuments of the benevolent zeal of the mis- which were occasionally favoured with his ministry, sionary in promoting the temporal and spiritual welfare doubt not some precious fruits of it remain to the of the flock committed to his charge. The view from present day. Throughout the extensive sphere of the parsonage was extensive, though bounded on every missionary labours, he was known and beloved by the side by the wide-spread forests of a new country, and faithful followers of Christ of every name. Many a was well adapted to the taste of one who had a heart widow's heart would leap for joy when on pointing to capable of being incited to devotion and communion the valuable cow which furnished nourishment for her with the Deity by the contemplation of his works .- numerous family, she would say, "that was presented The simple and economical arrangements of the in. to me by good Mr. Stewart;" on patting the head of terior of this peaceful mansion, where in perfect keep- her little flaxen baired boy she would exclaim, -" He ing with the plainness of its exterior. Though its is sent to school by that best of men, the minister of occupant had been accustomed from infancy to the St. Armand." None could know him without being rich cabinet furniture, the soft carpets, the splendid satisfied that he loved to do good, that it was better mirrors, and other appliances of comfort and luxury, to him than his meat and drink. Benevolence seemed which graced the castles and palaces of the princes to be the very element in which he lived and moved. and nobility of "the fatherland," and are now so In strict alliance with this, there was a guileless simgenerally distributed through the habitations of the plicity and unaffected humility, which attracted the higher classes of society in this western world, yet affection and confidence of the most casual acquaintnone of the paraphernalia of wealth and rank were ance. He would freely condescend to be not only found in his domicile. On the contrary, every thing the instructor, but the familiar companion of the virindicated the presence of a mind dead to the pomps tuous in the humblest station of life. As an illustraand vanities of the world—the pervading influence of tion of this, I well recollect hearing a very poor but a spirit so filled with the love of Christ that it could intelligent and pious woman, express her grateful surcheerfully sacrifice luxuries, and even be indifferent to prise that Mr. Stewart would sometimes call at her comforts, if by so doing it might better enjoy the log hut, and seated on the block of wood which povsweet luxury of doing good. The outer door opened erty compelled her to use as a substitute for a chair, into an apartment which served the double purpose of parlour and dining-room. The only furniture was a ligion, as freely and kindly as though she had been the plain deal table, and a few wooden or rush-bottomed finest lady in the land. As an instance of his frankchairs, together with a large chest which served as a ness and benignity the following incident is worthy of depository of bibles, prayer-books, and tracts for dis- notice. On one occasion of his officiating on this tribution, and which, when the number of guests was side of the line he inadvertently used the prayer for greater than that of the chairs, was drawn out and the King and Royal family, to the annoyance of the used as a bench on one side of the table. The meals patriotic feelings of his republican auditors. But on spread on this board were frugal, but abundant, and the circumstance being mentioned to him before the were always rendered pleasant and attractive by the close of the service, he said to the congregation-" My amiable cheerfulness of the benevolent host-who- friends I entirely forgot that I was out of His Mahaving no inmates in his bachelor entertainment but a jesty's dominions, come, let us pray for the President of servant man and woman, was obliged to depend on his the United States," and then offered up with great ferown unaided resources for the entertainment of his vency, the collect in our daily service, for the Chief

On the left of the room already described, was the and meekness of his character, however, did not prestudy, which though of smaller size, was furnished vent him from exercising the most rigid faithfulness with the same strict regard to economy and simplicity. in the ministry of the word and the performance of Here, also, was a plain table and desk, with two chairs, the parochial duties. I remember that one of the while around the sides of the room, on common shelves, most wealthy of his parishioners lost a son, who died were arranged the theological books, and the few at about the age of twenty, in the city Montreal. The volumes in general literature, which constituted the parents were not pious, but their son, during his abscanty library of this humble missionary of the Cross. sence from home, had become a follower of Jesus, and In this small and retired room he searched for the died in the hope of the Gospel. In preaching a sertreasures of Divine Wisdom in the Sacred Scriptures, mon occasioned by this event, the man of God with a perused the works of the wise and good, who had been holy boldness which, perhaps, it would not have been burning and shining lights in the Church of former safe for a minister holding a different relation to his days, and above all, held deep communion with the people to assume, addressing himself directly to the Great Teacher, and sought for that "unction from the afflicted parents, said, "you grieve for the death of PROFESSOR OF THE PIANO FORTE, Holy One" which would qualify him for the successful your child, and it is right that human nature should prosecution of his arduous work. From this sacred feel a pang of sorrow at such a bereavement. But Residence, Sumach Cottage, Ann Street. retreat he came forth to bid me welcome on my arri- you should adore the good Providence of God, by val. Never shall I forget the first impression produced which he was placed in a pious family, where he enon me by the peculiarities of his personal appearance. joyed the benefit of domestic worship and religious I seem to behold him now as he then stood before me. instruction, which were blessed to the conversion of He was a man about the age of forty, as I suppose, his soul. Had he remained at home, he would have and yet apparently much farther advanced in the vale been denied those privileges, and probably would

REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE RIGHT of years; his frame robust; but prone and slightly have lived careless and unconcerned like yourselves, bent; with small but keen grey eyes, a Roman nose, and have died without consolation and hope." What more pointed than ordinary, a mouth partially opened, a sublime example of ministerial fidelity was this. with irregular and projecting teeth, never fully covered by the lips, hair of a blackish cast (of which I never no analysis. The character of his mind was neither saw the like, except in a lady of the same family, with brilliant nor profound, but marked by judiciousness whom I afterwards became acquainted,) in thick, and sound good sense. His preachings was not disushy locks, profusely covering the shoulders, and tinguished by the sparkling of genius, or the thunders ightly sprinkled with powder, giving it the appearance of eloquence, but consisted of a faithful application of of a large grey wig. His legs were badly formed, his the great principles of divine truth to the consciences countenance void of intelligence, and the tout ensemble in it, that by the blessing of the Holy Spirit it was exmost ungainly and forbidding. But all the unpleasant tensively useful, and was evidently sanctioned by the feelings connected with the disappointment of a first best seals, in the conversion of souls to God. Few view, were soon removed by the benevolence of his men have ever been more successful or happy in their communications. As we sometimes find the best | I once ventured to enquire whether he never felt dis-None could hold a brief interview with him, and not minds me of the Lord Bishop. When he was here last

I saw him again in 1816. He was still in the full them, and the descrit shall rejoice and blossom as a admiration and gratitude 'What hath God wrought?'" the influence of a heart thoroughly pervaded by the Information afterwards derived from other sources, con- love of Jesus, and consecrated to the service of God. It was late in December, 1811, when the writer of vinced me that the humanity of this man of God had

Magistrate and others in authority. The simplicity

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25-t

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Toronto, 25th January, 1848.

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