

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE."

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FOR THE SABBATH.*

Abold, we come, dear Lord, to thee,
And bow before thy throne;
We come to offer on our knee,
Our vows to Thee alone.

Whate'er we have, whate'er we are,
Thy bounty freely gave;
How dost us here in mercy spare;
And wilt hereafter save.

Is not our tongues or knee can pay
The mighty debt we owe;
Or more we should than we can say,
Far lower should we bow.

Give then, my soul, bring all thy powers,
And grieve thou hast no more;
Sing every day thy choicest hours,
And thy great God adore.

Above all, prepare thy heart
On this, His own best day,
His sweet task to bear thy part,
And sing, and love, and pray

*From Hicke's Devotions.



PRAYER.*

There is an eye that never sleeps,
Beneath the wing of night;
There is an ear that never shuts,
When sinks the beam of light.

There is an arm that never tires,
When human strength gives way;
There is a love, that never fails,
When earthly loves decay.

That eye is fix'd on seraph throngs;
That ear is filled with angels' songs;
That arm upholds the world on high;
That love is throned beyond the sky.

But there's a power which man can wield,
When mortal aid is vain;
That eye, that arm, that love to reach,
That listening ear to gain.

That power is Prayer, which soars on high,
And feeds on bliss beyond the sky.

*Saturday Magazine.

ORIGINAL.

HISTORICAL NOTICE OF THE PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER.*

Editors,

The above engraving, (being it is believed the first attempt of the kind of a native artist) will together with the description given in your paper of the 14th Jan'y, afford some idea of the size and situation of the building, in which, on the holy day of the Lord, the congregation regularly assembled every day, when the Prayers and a sermon were read, by the Rev. Mr. George Weidle, a worthy man and sound preacher. The members of this little flock, now without a shepherd, were oftentimes much distressed in consequence of the sudden loss of their spiritual guide. And from some of them I have heard, when the thought entered their minds of the revocation of their former Pastor, another minister, the Reverend Robert Norris, was sent to them by the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, that Society whose praise be ascribed to God for ever. The members of this little flock, now without a shepherd, were oftentimes much distressed in consequence of the sudden loss of their spiritual guide. And from some of them I have heard, when the thought entered their minds of the revocation of their former Pastor, another minister, the Reverend Robert Norris, was sent to them by the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, that Society whose praise be ascribed to God for ever.

At the expiration of about two years and an half after the death of their former Pastor, another minister, the Reverend Robert Norris, was sent to them by the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, that Society whose praise be ascribed to God for ever. The members of this little flock, now without a shepherd, were oftentimes much distressed in consequence of the sudden loss of their spiritual guide. And from some of them I have heard, when the thought entered their minds of the revocation of their former Pastor, another minister, the Reverend Robert Norris, was sent to them by the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, that Society whose praise be ascribed to God for ever.

Signed,

Of the above named Missionary the following mention is made in the abstract for 1798:—"The Reverend Mr. Norris reached Halifax, after a passage of only twenty four days from Torbay—Reverend Mr. King (now Rector of Windsor) was tossed upon the ocean for nine weeks and three days, before he had the happiness of setting foot on the same ground. With the approbation of the Bishop of Nova Scotia, Mr. Norris repaired to Chester, where the labours of the late Mr. Lloyd had been so well received, and his loss so much lamented. The people expressed great joy at Mr. Norris's coming to them, and have made every exertion which their poor abilities will admit of, to render his situation comfortable, and to induce him to remain amongst them.—Their little church is finished on the outside; but owing to the present difficulties of the times, the completing of it within, anxious as they are for it, cannot soon be expected.—They have already purchased a Parsonage house, and are putting it in repair. It is a growing settlement, consisting at present of an hundred families. He preaches twice every Sunday, and generally chooses Gospel points for his subject, and endeavours to give them right apprehensions of the doctrines of salvation; points out to them the advantages of peace and union and christian charity, and also takes every occasion to remove the prejudices, and correct the errors which some have fallen into, through the influence of the Teachers who prevail in those parts. In the short time he had been with them (from the 14th of July to the 16th of October) he has baptized sixteen children."

From the abstract 1799, the following extract is made:—"The Reverend Mr. Norris, Missionary at Chester, writes that he had baptized 17, married two couple, and buried two—He is settled in the Parsonage house which the people purchased.—However well disposed, they are in general too poor to contribute much to the maintenance of a minister. Many who are called New Lights attend his preaching, and he trusts their prejudices will in time wear away, as they have not been visited lately by any of their teachers."

On the 15th of March 1799, a memorial was forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Wentworth, praying that the township of Chester might be erected into a parish; and it appears from the Vestry Book, that Chester was erected into a parish on the 9th of February 1800, to comprehend all the Head lands and Islands, commonly known and deemed

to be within the township; to be called by the name of the Parish of St. Stephen, for and during such time only as this District shall consist of one Parish,—a certificate to this effect is inserted in the Vestry Book, copied from the records of council, and signed by James Gautier, Deputy Secretary.

In the autumn of 1801, Mr. Norris removed to New Brunswick, where he remained until A.D. 1806, when he returned again to Nova Scotia, and took charge of the Parish of Cornwallis, in which Parish he remained until the time of his death.

The following is from the abstract for 1807:—"The Society have been favoured with several letters from the Bishop of Nova Scotia, every one expressive of the diligent attention of the Missionaries to their respective cures.—The changes which took place last year in missions have given general satisfaction. The churchwardens of Cornwallis have more particularly expressed their obligations to the Society, for their appointment of the Rev. Mr. Norris to that place.

In the abstract for 1811, the following mention is made of him:—"Mr. Norris has visited Chester, his former mission, where he preached twice and baptized six children. Of him a near and respected relative says—"I know he felt much interest and attachment to Chester, both on account of its being his first cure, and also for his having been the first to establish many things in that parish." He still is affectionately remembered here by the few aged members of the Church who yet remain, as indeed are all those who at any time have ministered among them in holy things."—To be continued.

PERSECUTION.

The Church of England has revived, is reviving, and, in spite of opposition—perhaps in proportion to that opposition—will, by the blessing of God, continue to revive. We are now a persecuted Church; and persecution, however painful for the time, is often the most effectual purifier. Thus it pleases the Great Head of his Church to educe good out of evil. The warfare which has been opened upon our communion, finds it firmly entrenched; and in proportion as its ministers are enabled to rise to the high measure of their sacred trust, we may hope that the blessing of the Lord our God will be upon us, and we need not fear what man would do unto us.—*Christian Observer.*