

A VISIT TO MAINADIEU, C. B.

I left Sydney on Saturday morning, the 3rd of Sept. for the purpose of paying a missionary visit to Mainadieu, exchanging duties with a brother clergyman who usually officiates in that part of the Parish. The road as far as Miró is very good, and as the day was fine, it was quite a pleasant ride. The first view of Miró River, which is about 12 miles from Sydney, is very beautiful. It resembles at this place a large lake, studded with islands of various sizes rising to some height, and covered with green wood to their summits. As both banks of the river are high, and the eye reaches up and down to some distance, a very pleasing picture is presented. The soft green foliage of the banks and islands contrast in a pleasing manner with the water, which is here and there broken into little bays, and shines for a long distance up and down between what appear hills of emerald.

This river runs up into the interior for a distance of nearly thirty miles from its mouth. It expands at its entrance into a wide bay. I crossed a new and well built bridge, which has a draw in it for the passage of vessels. Many of these are built above the bridge and brought down for sale. Two very neatly built vessels, with several boats, were then lying within view, nearly finished. After passing the river the road becomes rougher, and crosses several high hills; but as it passes in many places through thick woods, consisting chiefly of spreading beech and birch, a delightful shade was afforded for some distance. After passing the head of the Lake Catalogne, which is also studded with picturesque islands, and is separated from Miró Bay only by a narrow beach, I came in view of the sea. The road ran along the beach for a short distance, and then crossed a high hill,—below which was Mainadieu. The Village or Settlement extends round the shore of a very pretty Bay, and forms something of an ample theatre upon the sloping hills around. A point of land turns in from the north-east, and forms a small harbour for the numerous fishing vessels which belong to the place. I counted 20, and many were at sea. The harbour presented quite a lively scene: boats of various kinds were moving about with great rapidity, some under full sail, making their way through the rough water, with a fresh wind blowing. Hardy fishermen appeared in numbers along the beach, turning and piling their fish, or making ready for their next voyage. A number of fine Newfoundland dogs lay upon the beach, and gave quite a character to the scene. What also struck me as something new was the amphibious nature of the pigs, who were traversing the beach in every direction, sometimes in the water and sometimes out, regaling themselves with the dogfish, which occasionally fell from the stages erected along the shore. It appeared to be a thriving settlement, and contains about 60 houses. The majority of the inhabitants are Roman Catholic. Their Chapel and the priest's residence adjoining it, is well situated. There are about 18 Church families, and I believe no other Protestant denomination except Church of England.

On the following day (Sunday) I held service in the Church at 11 o'clock, and had a congregation of over 70; but as several of the coasters and other vessels were away, this was fewer than usually attended. I preached from Proverbs xii. 28, to a very attentive congregation. The sacrament was afterwards administered to six communicants, several being absent in the vessels out of harbour. A collection was also taken for the benefit of the Church. The inside of the church has just been finished, and does credit to the congregation. It is a neat building. Mr. Garmel, an old and respectable inhabitant, brought up a Presbyterian, but who has been a communicant in the Church of England for thirty years, takes a praiseworthy interest in the Church, and has done much for it. After service, I was called to visit a poor man in the neighbourhood, who was evidently upon his dying bed. He was a fisherman, and had taken a severe cold, by imprudently sleeping in his wet clothes after being exposed to a heavy rain. He was insensible, so that all that could be done in his case was to pray for him.

In the afternoon service was held again at 3 o'clock. My text was Matthew xi. 28, 29; about 60 made up the congregation. After service I attended the Sunday School, held in the Church. Mr. Rigby, a very respectable school-master, gives his time every Sunday to the instruction of the children of this school, as well as officiating as lay reader in the absence of the travelling missionary, who can only attend once a month. This he has done for many years past without remuneration. In the evening I visited many of the Church fa-

milies in the place, who appeared all glad of a visit from one of their pastors. Several members of the Congregation are converts from Romanism. The people seem much attached to their Missionary, the Rev. Mr. Porter, and appreciate the exertions which he has made for their spiritual welfare, as well as for the benefit of the Church there.

On Monday on my way to the Church, I visited again the sick man, and commended him for the last time to the mercy of the Saviour who died for him. He was a Presbyterian, and his place of residence was at some distance, where he would be taken for interment. The hour of service was 10 o'clock. I preached from Psalm ciii. 8th. The congregation consisted of 40. It was pleasing to see so good a number upon a week day, and at the same time such attentive listeners to the Word. After service I visited one or two more of the congregation.

Before leaving the village, I mounted a high hill, which forms a good protection to the Village from the north winds, and enjoyed a sea view, which amply repaid me for the trouble. The pretty little Harbour and Bay with its vessels and picturesque Village lay quite at my feet to the southward,—whilst out to the north-east the eye ranged over the surface of the ocean, the waves were covered with foaming caps, occasioned by the winds of the preceding night, and dashed with violence against the large rocky Island of Scaterio, which forms a breakwater against the Atlantic—not far distant from the mouth of the Bay. I returned to Sydney that evening, much pleased with my visit. The distance between the two places is 26 miles. I was comfortably and hospitably accommodated during my stay at the house of Mrs. Farrel, who keeps an inn there. Sydney, C. B., Sept. 9th, 1853.

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Niagara, Sept. 3.

The migratory character of the present Royal Family is in strong contrast with the personal habits of almost all the previous rulers of England. The Queen goes everywhere—inspects everything, sees everybody, and seems to delight in making the personal acquaintance of her subjects. She is now in Ireland attending the Exhibition; in a week more she will be in Scotland; in a month after in the Isle of Wight, at Windsor, or in London,—moving about from place to place with rapidity and enthusiasm which bids defiance to the elements, and challenges even the horrors of sea sickness.

It is gratifying to find that the Queen paid a complimentary visit to Mr. Dargan's private residence, the spirited man to whom the Dublin Exhibition owes its existence; and the manner in which it was paid,—without notice, and amidst a heavy fall of rain,—gave a more friendly and endearing character to the visit than if the most imposing state ceremonial had been introduced on the occasion. The Dublin Express, of Wednesday, says:—

At half-past five o'clock the Queen entered the demesne of Mount Annville. We can state as an undoubted truth that the honour of a royal visit was, at the time, perfectly unexpected both by Mr. Dargan and his domestics. No intimation of the fact had been given to him the first startling words that made the fact known to the noble minded man who was about to be honoured as perhaps no private individual ever previously has been, were, "The Queen is coming!" and immediately afterwards the cortege dashed up the avenue, and the Sovereign crossed the threshold of a subject only ennobled by his princely acts, his unswerving probity, his quick appreciation of the necessities of his country, and his generous application of means calculated to do more towards placing her on the proper path of prosperity than any private individual has ever before attempted,—a subject whose deeds might give a character of majesty to the age.

It is hardly possible to conceive a more delicate and unmistakable compliment than this visit to Mr. Dargan involved, and the influence which it must have upon his susceptible countrymen cannot fail to be great. The breadth of the man's character was tested by his refusal to accept the honour of knighthood, on the inauguration of the Exhibition, and her Majesty's recognition of the services which he has rendered to Ireland, by this crowning act of his life, was just the sort of thing, in its free and unaffected character, to impress a large-hearted man like Mr. Dargan. The following sketch of this self-raised man's residence, and the interview which the Sovereign had with him and his family, possesses more than a passing interest:—

Her Majesty was received, on a nighting, by Mr. Dargan. The royal party, immediately on the first salutations having been given, ascended through the beautiful gallery of the residence, where some noble paint-

ings grace the walls, to the campanile, built by Mr. Dargan, from which a view probably not to be surpassed by any residence in Europe, is attainable. On one side the undulating and varied country stretched down to the sea; Dalkey and Killiney hills, Kingstown Harbour, with the fleet at anchor, and the broad bosom of the waters terminating the prospect. On another lay a somewhat similar character of country, ending in the beautiful Bay of Dublin, beyond which Howth, rising suddenly into the hazy clouds, and the line of well wooded coast round by Clontarf and Donnybrook, gave background to the view. The other views were no less varied and full of character. With the scenery from the tower her Majesty expressed her marked delight, as did Prince Albert and the other royal visitors. The Princes, who were plainly dressed, amused themselves as young persons generally do under such propitious circumstances, and were assisted in their efforts by the presence of an excellent telescope. In the tower Mrs. Dargan joined the Royal party, and was most graciously received by the Queen. After the Royal party returned from the tower, Prince Albert entered into familiar conversation with Mr. Dargan, under the portico of the hall door. Close beside Mr. Dargan also stood the Prince of Wales, who seemed attentively to listen to the topics under discussion.

About six o'clock the royal party again entered their carriages, and drove into town by nearly the route taken in coming. The picturesque effect of the party passing along the well wooded avenues of Clonskeagh and Roebuck was particularly good.

This age of iron and of contracts has placed ample fortunes at the command of many men like Mr. Dargan, imbued with fine taste and liberality, who have exercised them discreetly. Prince Albert's connexion with the Hyde-park Exhibition must have brought him in contact with many such; but this is probably the first instance in which her Majesty has ever been in the same position. Certainly the public spirit of Mr. Dargan places him at the head of this class; and this royal recognition of his merits will possess, in after times, an historical interest, more marked than we now attach to it.

The Russians and Turks both continued their warlike preparations. The Egyptian fleet and forces have arrived, and the troops are encamped at Beycos, on the Bosphorus. The Sultan has, it is said, received an autograph letter from the Emperor of Austria, praying his friend and brother to accept the last project of note, stating that, if rejected, he (the Emperor) will retire altogether from the question.

The letters delivered by the India mail add very little to the information we gave last week. It is very evident that the revolution in China has become general. In some places the insurgents have been allowed to sacrifice the Tartars and Mandarins, but the inhabitants have wished to take the government into their own hands. It will be a very long time before any regular and settled government having authority over the whole empire can be established. The main body of the insurgents are still at Nankin, pausing before they ascend to Peking, but it is said that a large force is pushing forward towards the south, which causes no little uneasiness at Canton, and a considerable interruption of business. Great scarcity of money prevailed, and no demands existed for imports; on the other hand, the export of tea was proceeding with activity, and prices were well maintained. Mr. Taylor, the American missionary, had returned to Shanghai from visiting the insurgent forces at Chin-kiang-foo, and he was sent on by General Loo to Nankin upon his expressing a wish to visit that city. The tents of the imperial troops were visible from the walls of Nankin. The insurgents in all their communications appear to be friendly disposed towards foreigners. The Russian and American ships at Canton were about to make a display at Japan, and would afterwards proceed to Shanghai on their return.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.—Letters from the Black Sea, of the 18th ult., announce that the ships which form the fourth division of the Russian fleet had returned to Sebastopol, with the exception of four vessels of small size cruising off the coast of the Caucasus.

In circles believed to be well informed at Berlin there are no sanguine hopes entertained of a speedy settlement of the Eastern question, but rather the opinion that the Russians will not retire from the Principalities before an indemnity is paid or secured them.

GERMANY.—The cholera has appeared in Berlin in a very virulent form, though in a very few cases.—During the past month fifty-two cases had occurred, of which thirty-seven were fatal. Every precaution is being used against the spread of the epidemic.

ITALY.—From Rome we learn that the plot organized by the Mazzinians for Assumption day is still the object of attention on the part of the authorities, and some further arrests have taken place, but nothing fresh has transpired.