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OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—By the death of the Bishop of Lichfield, the Church of England has lost one of her foremost men. He was a most worthy occupant of the Episcopal throne, and earnestly carried out the great work he had undertaken. His public career has been a very lengthened one. As Bishop of New Zealand he labored for upwards of thirty years and was successful in the establishment of Church of England missions on an extended scale and on a permanent basis. The history of those years of hard toil, indefatigable work, and at times of heroic bravery and endurance, is a grand memorial of his great life. His work in the diocese of Lichfield has been unsparing, and on behalf of the lowly workers on the canals, and the colliery population he has pleaded and toiled with marked success. Notwithstanding his lengthened Colonial experience he became an ardent advocate of the English Church as it is, and a strong opponent of change in the burial laws. He had the courage of his convictions, fearlessly taking the side of what he felt to be the right. His church views were high, but yet all agree that a good and a brave man, an earnest minister of Christ has passed away. He died in his 70th year. One of his sons has just been consecrated as a missionary Bishop, and in his far away diocese in the southern world is following in the footsteps of his father.

HOUSES OF REST.

A plan and a plea for Houses of Rest for wearied and partially invalidated preachers, has just been issued by Charles Garrett. The suggestion is for the procural and maintenance of four or more houses, in sheltered and healthy situations, where for a few weeks or months sick brethren and their families could find a comfortable retreat at a very small outlay. The scheme is very good, it is not impracticable as far as expenditure goes, and it would prove an untold benefit to many. The proposal appears to be very favorably received, if we may judge from the opinions which have been expressed. It is hoped that it may bear fruit at the forthcoming Conference, when for the first time, the laymen will be assembled as part of that great connexional court. It would be a most graceful act on their part, at such a time, to inaugurate a plan which promises rest to many a weary preacher, and restoration to work.

THE RESIGNATION

of a benefited clergyman, who is in possession of a valuable living, is a rather unusual occurrence. The Rev. C. T. Astley, the Rector of Gillingham, near Rochester, has taken this step. He is pained and disquieted by the ever increasing Romanism in the Established Church, and the utter uselessness of the protracted and expensive lawsuits which have been undertaken for the repression of Ritualism. Convinced that the Bishops are powerless in this crisis, he has taken the only course open to him; that of leaving a church which fails to exercise godly discipline, and to maintain the pure faith of Christ. Mr. Astley is much beloved in his parish, is an earnest worker, and a godly man, whose retirement is much regretted.

HOME MISSIONARY MATTERS

are just now under careful and anxious consideration. From the suggestions forwarded for revision at the May District meetings, we see that it is proposed to separate the yearly collection in the classes and constitute a fund for special objects which are not missionary in their character and for which the circuits do not provide. These will include expenses of various kinds, but not grants for special afflictions. These are to be put down to the Home Mission account, although many of us fail to see any close relation between grants

for these extraordinary cases, and the purely aggressive work of Home Missions. All these recommendations have to undergo a severe sifting. On many points the committee was compelled to divide, and important changes will be made before they become law.

THE FAMINE IN CHINA

is on a terribly wide scale, the sufferers are numbered by millions, and of these a fearful number are perishing under circumstances of deplorable misery. This calamity has not called forth much sympathy or active assistance. The recent efforts made to relieve the famine stricken in India, and the present intense strain on account of the war feeling, have prevented any general response to the call for pity and help. A few thousands have been sent, and in one or two cases missionary societies have sent liberal grants to their agents, but this is all that has been done to meet this calamity.

IN THE MIDLANDS.

The closing paragraphs of this letter are written upon a former circuit, to which your correspondent has come for the purpose of preaching and lecturing. On the way, passing through London, there was time for a brief visit to St. Paul's, for a view of the recently completed monument in memory of the

DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

It is 24 years or more since his death, and upwards of 20 years since the artist entered upon the work, and during all that time it has been in hand. It occupies one of the chapels in the south aisle of the cathedral, and is a fine and elaborate piece of workmanship, of costly material and superior finish. But it is too complicated, with all its columns and cornices; which at a little distance lose their effect. The recumbent figure of the great Duke is finely designed and executed, and is by far the best part of the design.

CENTENARY HALL

was rapidly filling at half-past ten for the 11 o'clock service. The anxiety to hear Dr. Pope preach the official and Presidential sermon before the Missionary Society was very great. The great hall became inconveniently crowded. The sermon was worthy of the occasion—preeminently fitting for the present aspects of the Redeemer's work in the earth, and full of admirable counsels in regard to the *tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ*. The text was taken from Revelations 1st chap. 9th ver. Our worthy President appeared in good health, and his presence at the anniversary services will be a great satisfaction to our loyal and loving people.

April 30, 1878.

Letter from Newfoundland.

I give the following account, Mr. Editor, that your readers may form some idea of the dangers to which the ice hunter of Nfld. is subjected on the perilous sealing voyage. We are however, thanks to a merciful providence, not often called to record such casualties, although I may say that since my residence on the Island I have known and heard of some hundreds of the hardy sons of Newfoundland finding a watery grave whilst prosecuting the Seal Fishery.

The brigantine *Eric* of Carbonear, 138 tons, owned by John Burke, Esq., M. H. A., and commanded by Capt. Geo. Perry, and which had a crew of sixty-four men, sailed from Carbonear with the rest of the fleet on March 5th. All went well until the 9th when one of the men named Samuel King in being engaged in pushing away the ice from her bow accidentally broke his leg. This was the beginning of a series of casualties which terminated in the loss of the ship and of nearly every life aboard. On the 20th the ship struck the Seals and was in a fair way of getting a good trip when, owing to the ice becoming slack, nearly the whole of the crew perished by being out on the ice all night. On the morning of the 22nd fifty-four men went after some seals that were panned a day or two before and which could not be got aboard on account of the loose state of the ice. The Seals were away from the vessel about one mile. But when they got to them and had got their turn and were making for their ship the ice again parted and the men were carried one way and the ship another. Fortunately twenty-two men got aboard another vessel but the other thirty-two were out all night. The night set in bitterly cold and snow

fell. In their efforts to reach the vessel many of them fell into the water and were hooked out by the gaffs of their companions. These had to strip to the skin on the ice and wring out their clothes and put them on again. Two poor fellows who thought they could find their vessel left the rest, and their companions heard them splashing in the water but could render them no assistance. These found a watery grave. Their names were Summers and Tucker, the former was a married man and the other a widower. The vessel got nine of the men the next morning. None of these were frost-bitten. The rest were got during the day. About twenty of these were frost bitten, and some very severely, so much so that several since they reached home have suffered amputation of toes and part of the foot. Having twenty men frost bitten and one man with a broken leg on board, the Capt. determined to proceed homeward and having got clear of the ice on the 4th of April they stretched their course southward, having spoken to the S. S. Eagle in the vicinity of Cape Bonavista. That night a terrible gale came on. The next day the weather being very thick and gale increasing and not knowing where they were, the cry was heard from the bow "breakers ahead." Seeing an island near they got under it and dropped anchor, thinking when the weather cleared up they would get away, but the gale increased so much that night and the next day that at noon on Saturday they were obliged to cut away the masts to enable the ship to ride out the gale. On every hand also they found that they were surrounded by high perpendicular cliffs up which the sea was breaking in mad fury. (They were near Bird Island Cove). On the top of those cliffs were hundreds of men and women who were looking down upon the poor distressed fellows below. They had ropes prepared to throw them, but they could not launch a boat anywhere, no boat could live in such a sea as that. The vessel was heaving and straining at her cables. Three large anchors and stout chains held her with iron grasp, but still the sea abated not and each man aboard expected every moment to find a watery grave. In the cabin prayer meeting after prayer meeting was held. When the clock would indicate that another hour had gone the crew would sing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and then "To your knees" and "call upon your God" was the order of the day. And thus passed this memorable night. The people on shore made a huge fire which was continually replenished. Those on board tried to get a light to burn in the cabin but the sea breaking over the vessel it was put out as fast as it was lighted. The Sabbath dawned but there was no means of deliverance at hand. But prayer was made without ceasing on their behalf. But what is this coming in from seaward at 12 o'clock? It is a small skirt of ice. Is this to strike the vessel and thus make her drag her anchors, or send her and her helpless crew to the bottom. Nearer and nearer it comes, it stretches from the vessel to the cliffs. Several as soon as it came near the vessel got on it and hopping from pan to pan got under the cliffs and were hoisted up. But it was fearful work and was attended with great danger. Several got into the water and were hauled out again, and one poor fellow just as they were hoisting him up the cliff side was so crushed by the ice that his leg was broken in three places, and another man who stood on the cliff to assist him had one of his legs broken by the ice and sea. Ten men got ashore this time and the rest came back to the vessel which was now being struck heavily by the pans of ice. The crew now threw out the ballast to keep the vessel afloat a little longer. Then to the joy of the rest aboard another and a larger skirt of ice was seen coming in from seaward. This was heavier ice than the other, and a complete bridge was formed from the vessel to the shore upon which the men walked as on *dry ground*. Who but could see that this was in answer to prayer. What a sight it was to see those poor fellows who had undured so much hardship now released from their prison. And now we see some of the crew hauling a boat. This contains the poor fellow with his leg broken and two others who were so badly frost bitten they could not put foot to ground. And now all are safely ashore and the ice which only stayed in one hour is broken up and returns to sea. *What an interposition of Divine*

providence! Well might the Episcopal clergyman read prayers with the rescued. Well might there be joy that night in the Methodist Church, over these who had thus been saved. Well might the people of Carbonear say that they were miraculously delivered. It was a miracle, and a miracle in answer to prayer. O what joy was experienced in this place when the news flashed across the wires on Monday morning, "The crew are all ashore." Everybody was thankful to that God who had undertaken our cause and delivered our poor sealers from a watery grave. On the following Wednesday the crew was sent home in the S. S. *Hercules*. The public wharf was lined with spectators and the scene almost heartrending. Stout able seamen were seen brushing away the starting tear. Mothers were there to meet their sons and wives to meet their husbands. Nay they all seemed as those that had come back from the dead. As yet some have not returned. They are still suffering. One had his leg amputated at the thigh, another at the ankle, and another half one foot and several toes taken off. But the rest are doing as well as can be expected.

MANCHESTERIAN.

Carbonear, May 1, 1878.

Our Boston cotemporary, *The Congregationalist*, has the following seasonal paragraph:

"The female members of our churches have other duties besides going to the ladies' prayer-meetings; one of which may possibly be to avoid display in dress at church. One of the finest things we have for a long time heard, was the remark that a certain lady saves the congregation where she worships ten thousand dollars a year! A woman of wealth and of high social culture and position, she yet makes it a rule to dress for church in a manner so plain and inexpensive, as to throw her whole influence against any undue expenditure in that direction, thus helping to make everybody feel satisfied to attend Sabbath service with such, and only such outlay as can fairly be afforded. Such women are greatly needed in many congregations, and the good which they may accomplish is beyond estimate, especially in these times, when so many in every community are obliged to exercise the closest economy."

OUR SUPERNUMERARY FUNDS.

ARTICLE IV.

Why the discussion of this matter should have originated in the Eastern Conferences, whilst the Western ones have taken no notice of it, not even indicating that they were desirous of amalgamation at all, we do not know. Perhaps it is because the Eastern ones are much more largely composed of young men; and youth is proverbially radical in its ideas and modes of action, whilst age is conservative. In this case, at least, we must say that perhaps a little of the conservatism, which is said to be a characteristic of Methodism, would be a good deal of reform.

Now Mr. Editor we have come nearly to the length of our chain. There are one or two points which we have not touched—the relations of the Book Rooms to the question, &c., but not wishing to inflict another article upon you or your readers, we must lay them aside, as there is one other matter to which we must refer. It is the great need of a statement of the past history, and present condition of the fund, of which we have had so much to say. As this matter is surrounded with some little difficulty you will permit perhaps this article to be lengthened a little, by a few suggestions in reference to it. We do not know what the opinion of the brethren generally may be, but any who have attempted to inform themselves upon any point or points concerning the fund will make no question in reference to such a necessity. The Book Room prints annually a full statement of its doings—the Missionary Society sends forth its ponderous reports by the thousand—and even the Educational Society takes care to place all details before its supporters. Our fund has been in existence for 23 years,

and yet, the Conference has never thought worth while to receive any statement in full of its doings, or even to preserve such have, as a matter of course been presented from time to time. Such carelessness is not at all creditable to a body preferring any claims to be called business men. Of course, the Treasurer, or Secretary of the fund, or whoever has the accounts under his charge, is ready at any time, to make out such a report as may be desired, timely notice being given; even if it should entail some labour. Such labour would be but a part of his duty, in connection with the management of his business. But the difficulty is here. The fund belongs to three Conferences, and who is going to say that we want a report, and give the necessary directions as to the form and manner in which it is to be made. No one Conference has the power to say this, and there is no provision made for concerted action. This year the N. S. and N. B. and P. E. Island Conferences will be within consulting distance, and if the Newfoundland Conference could make arrangements to be represented the matter might be easily managed.

The Western Conferences took this step some years ago. In 1871 the Treasurers made a detailed statement of every matter connected with the fund, and it is stated in the minutes, that they have now determined upon a yearly report. We would not need that. If we had a detailed statement now, to be supplemented every four, or every eight years, bringing the information always up to date, it would be amply sufficient. In the way of suggestion we venture to give, more fully, some information as to the nature of the report furnished in the West.

This report consists simply of a series of tables or schedules without any written statements or explanations whatever. But any such explanations are rendered unnecessary by the fullness and completeness of these schedules, as will be seen from the following statement of their contents:

Table I. Contains all the minister claimants—giving names, years travelled, annual supernumerary allowance, years receiving same, and amount.

Table II. Widows of deceased ministers and supernumerary do.

Table III. Temporary claimants—do.

Table IV. Special claimants, do.

Table V. Deceased claimants—that is minister and wife both dead, do.

Table VI. Summary of the above.

Table VII. History of the fund—receipts and expenditure in every particular, for each year from origin of fund down to date. Very important.

Table VIII. Present condition of fund and investments. This has columns for date of investments, where and how invested—amount—rate per cent., annual interest—amount of interest paid—amount due.

These tables would probably need modification in a few instances, to accommodate them to our circumstances, but even as they stand they would be most valuable, not only for the historical information, but also, for the summaries and averages which they furnish. As an illustration of the need of this information we may instance this agitation now pending concerning amalgamation. It has come up in one form now—who can tell how many more it may assume before we are done with it, or how many other questions may arise in connection therewith? Now how many men are in the Conferences who can answer half a dozen questions concerning the fund intelligently, and definitely? Are there as many as would have saved Sodom from destruction? We doubt it. And as a consequence our whole church is at the mercy of any ad captandum scheme that may be presented for acceptance. We trust that this anomalous state of affairs will not be suffered longer to exist.

And now Mr. Editor we must close. Thanking you and your readers for space and patience, and pleading the necessity of the case as an excuse for presuming to advise and suggest, to those who ought to know more of the subject than we, whether they do or not; trusting, also, that what we have often hastily written, may be carefully read, not to mark its blemishes but to master its facts—and that this may help some to a more perfect understanding of the questions that may arise in connection with this interest, we take leave for the present of OUR SUPERNUMERARY FUNDS.

J. R. B.