

REPORT

OF THE

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY,

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

OF

FOR THE YEAR

1848,

CHARLOTTETOWN :

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THE Eighth Annual Meeting of the DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY of Prince Edward Island, took place at Charlottetown, on the 10th of August, 1848. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Sir DONALD CAMPBELL, Bart., Patron of the Society, took the Chair. The Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Vice President of the Society, read prayers. The Chairman then called on the Rev. C. Lloyd to read the following

REPORT:

YOUR Committee again render up their trust at the conclusion of the year, and never have they done so under a stronger feeling of the inadequacy of their exertions to the occasion, or of the need which exists for renewed endeavors in a cause which is identified with the happiness of man, and with the glory of God, their Saviour. It feels that there never was a time when it behoved all Missionary and other religious societies to be more on the alert. In the year 1848, your Committee sees sufficient cause to value the efforts of such societies, when the very existance of a social system seems, in some portions of the world, to be called in question,—and when it must be plain to every reflecting mind, that Civilization without Religion can never guarantee the stability of Kingdoms, or the security and well-being of their inhabitants. The knowledge of man's

physical powers, when disunited from a conscientious knowledge of his social duties, is like the knowledge of evil obtained by sin in Paradise, unaccompanied with the knowledge of good which there tempered the perilous possession. The selfishness of man's nature, renders a fear of God absolutely necessary as a restraint upon the knowledge of man's power, and that fear can only be acquired by means of Christianity, not merely offered to the outward senses, but brought, by the operation of God's Holy Spirit, into the conscience. And therefore your Committee, in looking upon the appalling outbreaks of brute force which (during the present year), have been exhibited by the combination of men bent upon working their own lawless will, acknowledge their responsibility as christians, and their duty as followers of Christ's religion, to promote (as far as in them lies), the spread of those happy, peaceful principles which prevent the human passions from being perverted from their destined uses, and made the instruments of outrage, cruelty, and every demoniacal imagination.

Embarked in that holy enterprise which (under God's blessing), shall bring peace at the last, your Committee regrets that the circumstances of the time in part, and still more, the apathy unhappily existing towards that enterprize among the body of those from whom the support of the work, in pecuniary matters, was to have been expected, have kept the main object of the Society hitherto in abey-But it rejoices to observe the favorable reception ance. which the project of establishing a Travelling Missionary in this Island has of late obtained among those staunch friends who have heretofore (by God's grace), prevented the Association from falling to the ground. And your Committee can now indulge the hope, that, an influential motive having been offered to the exercise of liberality among the children of England's Church, a revival of the Society's pecuniary resources may take place, and an interest which of late has been strangely wanting, be felt.

Your Committee feels its right, on behalf of the Church of England, to call upon its members—those who have been baptised under its ordinances, and who have derived the bread of life from their Heavenly Father through its instrumentality—to aid in the design of furnishing one missionary for the preaching of Christ's Gospel in the remote places of our Island, where the Church is seen without a Minister, and members, originally belonging to Established Faith, in England, driven to choose between the neglect of public worship and the joining themselves and children to some separated body which holds the stock from which it has separated itself in little estimation.

Your Society (as it is bound), holds the forms and orders of the Established Church to be a safeguard to the Christianity of this country, and therefore should not rest contentcd while its children are deprived of the bread which it esteems wholesome and proper for their spiritual nourishment. Churchmen, ruled by just and conscientious considerations, should remember how much England does for this Island in maintaining six clergymen resident within it. Could it be thought unreasonable, should she ask of us to establish one, as a pioneer, to clear the way for future operations? Have we not sufficient gratitude to God, who has planted the Gospel among our thousands, to make us desirous it should prosper in the land? Have we not sufficient nobleness of mind to desire that we may be God's instrument to bring it to pass?

Your Committee feels that its duty consists, at this moment, as much in urging upon you the necessity for an active zeal in the Lord's good cause, for the coming year, as in bringing before you the former weakness of the Society's efforts, and the delay which has interposed itself between its friend's desire and the accomplishment of what they wish.

It is usually expected that at the termination of each year a committee of such a Society as this will be prepared to give an account of something practically beneficial to mankind, having been performed. But, with the exception of a few books disposed of, the Society has, to any practical purpose, lain dormant. Nevertheicss, the Cause has been awake, and it was felt betier to reserve its resources for a worthy object, than to waste them by a premature outlay on objects not of vital importance; they have therefore been husbanded, and from the unanimity of opinion rapidly consolidating itself in favor of the Missionary labor, your Committee thinks it sees an appearance of future usefulness marked out for it by the favor of Almighty God. Let, then, all the friends of the Church of England be zealous members of this Society. Their Cause is one! In the other North American Colonies the Church Society finds ample favor among all who worship according to the established formularies. Why should not we "be one" here also? There could be no more honorable link to bind us than the Missionary Cause.

Nova Scotia has set us an example, in maintaining, from the funds of the Church Society alone, two Itinerating Missionaries, and their labors are said to be eminently blessed. Cannot your Society, in conjuction with the Ladies' Association, and aided by funds from the benefited places, compass the establishment of ONE? The vineyard of the Lord is large. Our deserted Church-field is sufficiently capacious, the corn is white already to harvest.—" Pray, ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His harvest,"

"The prayer of Faith," is the Society's best strength. This, at least, can cost us nothing but good will. Shall we refuse it? A Patient Faith is able to effect much more than what now is occupying our attention. It may be added, that, with a Faith at all worthy of the cause-one which shall prove its sincerity by its zeal-there will be no room to doubt the success of the Society's labors. And the times are suitable for the manifestation of such a Faith. Morally and religiously speaking, we have reason to be thankful that we live under the temporal protection of the flag of England. But what makes that protection of such value? Is it not the protection which Heaven has extended to our mother country? Will not a continuance of that heavenly protection be best sought, in a veneration for the word and will of God, as revealed through the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Since " Righteousness exalteth a nation and sin is a reproach to any people," we may be sure, that a respect for our Redeemer's Gospel, is the foundation for that strength and stability which may be depended on in times of peril.

Your Committee thinks, on such grounds, that the work you have in hand deserves well of this country, and that the friends of peace will say,—"We wish you good luck in the name of the Lord;" that the friends of Christianity will be disposed to help you on your way.

Whether your Committee look upon the good effect of Missionary labors now seen in some portions of the world, or on the evil consequences arising from the want of them in others, it is equally impressed with the unspeakable advantages to every country, of having the worship of God; the ordinances and sacraments of Christ's religion; and the consolations of a pure Faith, brought within its boundaries on every side and pervading its whole surface, as means through which the streams of its noblest life may be made to flow.

By means of the missionary, (under God's mercy,) heathen souls are daily drawn from the destroyer's grasp; and, within the fold of our own missionary Church, the Hindoo, the New Zealander, the Canadian Indian, men of different climes and families are brought near to Christ and made one, through the adoption of his Father,—being received into the family of true believers.—So that, though aliens to one another in the world, they are partakers of the same salvation in the Heavenly Kingdom,

In our Father-land, the recognition of God's will, (according to his Word,) has formed a barrier against the flood of social disorder, while, in its worst features, it was exemplifying upon the continent of Europe that sad history which our Lord has bequeathed to us, of the "house built upon the sand." And if the fears which have lately been excited of the cholera's approach be realised, much more forcibly will a dependence for mortal man on the principles and comfort of Christ's Gospel commend its wisdom to the soul.

As a city set upon an hill, your Society claims a conspicuous position. Should it not be an honorable one? Should it not "stand upon its watch" to guard (as far as human foresight may,) against every coming evil,—every evil against which its sense of duty may call upon it to provide a timely remedy. And how many ills to which mortality is subject, will the Gospel remedy? How universal is the antidote when faithfully applied! For, "by the fear of God men depart from evil," and by the "love of God" that evil which may be forced upon them through a nature the prey of imperfection, will be overcome. Against superstition and infidelity—the offspring of spiritual neglect—it is the high mission of Societies like yours to preserve mankind.

The Holy Ghost works, in part, by human means, will you disown your mission? Let not the dishonor attending a retreat from duty, fasten itself upon your Association. Rather, may the blessings of a united brotherhood in Christ be your aim. May the duty of all, to forward Christ's work in the Church of their forefathers, by such means as He has entrusted them with, be felt an 1 acted on,—and the power of every member of your body be used to induce an active interest in the cause for which you are united,—that the approbation of Him who "gave his life for his sheep," scattered upon a thousand hills, be extended to you at the day of His appearing.

With the exception of sums arising from the sale of books at the Depositary, your Committee has decided on reserving and vesting the balance to your credit towards the first year's salary of a Travelling Missionary; such incidental expenses alone, as may be actually necessary, being deducted from it,—and your sanction, by the adoption of this Report, will have been obtained to the measure.

An account of the Treasurer's receipts and expenditures for the last year will now be read,—it being borne in mind that the sympathies of our Church population can hardly be said, as yet, to have been properly excited in favor of your adopted project.

The Report having been read, the accounts of the Treasurer, the Hon. Mr. Holl, were passed.—After which, the following Resolutions were proposed and adopted:—

Moved by the Hon. C. HENSLEY, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. JENKINS,-

Resolved, That the Report now read be adopted and printed, with a list of the subscribers and donors to the Society.

Moved by the Rev. C. LLOYD, and seconded by the Rev. D. FITZGERALD,-

Resolved, That this meeting with gratitude acknowledges the goodness of Almighty God towards this Island during the past year, whereby it has been kept in peace and safety, when other states and dependencies have been shaken to their very centre, and towards that portion of his Church which is established in this Island, whereby it has been enabled to continue its labors and its sphere of usefulness uninterrupted and unmolested.

Moved by the Hon. W. SWABEY, and seconded by the Rev. C. LLOYD,—

Resolved, That this meeting still approves of the object entertained last year, viz.: the appointment of a Travelling Missionary for the Island, and that this shall be at present recognised as the primary object of the Society.

Moved by Captain CUMBERLAND, and seconded by T. DESBRISAY, Esquire,-

Resolved, That the Treasurer be requested to invest the amount now in hand, or accruing to the credit of the Society, in a Treasury warrant, to form the foundation of a year's salary, (in addition to the sum applied to the same purpose from other sources,) for the intended Travelling Missionary.

Moved by the Hon. J. M. Holl, and seconded by JOSEPH HENSLEY, Esquire,—

Resolved, That an application be made to the Trustees, in whose hands the lands recently contributed to the support of the Churches, in various parts of the Island, are vested, in order that where there is no resident Clergyman, any funds which may arise from their being leased, may be appropriated to the purpose of supporting a Travelling Missionary.

Moved by Mr. C. RICHARDSON, and seconded by T. DESBRISAY, Esquire,

Resolved, That a sufficient sum, from all sources, for a year's salary, be accumulated before the Travelling Missionary be appointed.

Moved by Mr. H. B. SWABEY, and seconded by Mr. WM. JARVIS,-

Resolved, That all proceeds derived from sales of books at the Depositary, be reserved for a fresh order on the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and not be mixed with the subscriptions and other proceeds to the Society's eredit.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. JENKINS, and seconded by the Rev. C. LEOYD,—

Resolved, That this meeting continues to feel thankful to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for its increased liberality towards this Island.

Moved by the Rev. D. FITZGERALD, and seconded by JOHN BARROW, Esquire.

Resolved, That this meeting highly approves of the persevering lalors of the Ladics' Association, in their endeavor to attain that object which is Moved by the Hon. W. SWABEY, and seconded by the. Rev. Dr. JENKINS,-

Resolved, That the officers of the Society be reappointed for the ensuing year, so far as they may not have disqualified themselves by non-subscribing.

Moved by the Hon. C. HENSLEY, and seconded by the Rev. C. LLOYD,-

Resolved, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor do leave the Chair, and that Captain Swabey be called thereto.

Moved by the Hon. the CHIEF JUSTICE, and seconded by the Hon. C. HENSLEY,-

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be, and hereby is, given to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Sir Donald Campbell, for presiding on this occasion, and for the warm interest he has taken in the welfare of this Society.

The meeting terminated with the accustomed benediction by the Rev. Charles Lloyd.

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J. M. HOLL, Treasurer.

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