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PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL,  
(NORTH AMERICA)

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COPY OF

A MEMORANDUM transmitted to Viscount  
Godolphin, relative to the State of the English  
Church in the North American Colonies.

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
22 May 1827.

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PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL,  
(NORTH AMERICA.)

COPY OF

A MEMORANDUM transmitted to Viscount Goderich by the Rev. A. Hamilton, Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, dated 16th May 1827, with Tables, in reference to the state of the Church in the *North American Colonies*, in the Year 1824.

Colonial Department,  
Downing-Street, 22 May 1827.

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 22 May 1827.

MAY 16th, 1827.

THE BISHOP of *Nova Scotia*, during the last summer, visited the greatest part of his extensive diocese; and reports, that he had travelled by sea and land more than 5,000 miles; he had consecrated 44 churches and 35 burial grounds; held 61 confirmations, at which 4,367 persons have been confirmed, none of whom were under 16 years of age; and visited every clergymen in Bermudas, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island.

The number confirmed will appear small in England for the number of confirmations; but the circumstances of the two countries are widely different, as may be easily understood when it is observed, that he has had more than a mile of land for every individual confirmed. At several places the Bishop was induced to repeat the ceremony, more than once on the same day, as the time of his arrival being necessarily uncertain, those who are desirous of participating in that holy rite, which specially marks them as members of the Church of England, were unable to attend at the hour appointed; and notwithstanding the Bishop's readiness to devote every hour to the business of his visitation, great numbers were disappointed, on account of the distance at which they resided, and the difficulty of communication.

Extract from the Bishop of Nova Scotia's Letter, dated  
April 9th, 1827.

"THE urgent want of 14 additional Missionaries in Nova Scotia, viz. two in the neighbourhood of Lunenburg, and one in each of the following stations; neighbourhood of Chester, Liverpool, Clements, upper part of Grenville, Wilmot, Amherst, Rawdon, Guysboro, Pictou, Sackville, Archet, and a visiting Missionary in Cape Breton, has been pointed out. Nine are also required in New Brunswick, viz. at Woodstock, Prince William, and Queensbury, Grand Lake, Long Island, St. John, Springfield, West Isles, Westmoreland and Shediac. Four are equally wanted in Prince Edward Island, two for Charlotte Town and its neighbourhood, one for Crappran, and one for George Town, or rather Three Rivers; and six at least will, I am satisfied, be required for Newfoundland."

Thus thirty-three additional Missionaries are immediately and earnestly required for this diocese, besides four clergymen and ten superior schoolmasters for the Negroes in the Bermudas, which do not so immediately come into the view of the Society.

When the limited means of the Society are considered, which are sadly disproportioned to their benevolent inclinations, this view of our wants is appalling.

May God in his great mercy abundantly strengthen their hands, and put it into the hearts of those who have the ability, to unite in this great and good work!

The Tables which accompany this very imperfect view of the diocese of Nova Scotia and Quebec, will exhibit a list of sixty-eight churches in the former diocese and seventy-six in the latter. These documents were delivered in the year 1824, since which period great additions have been made to the number of edifices for public worship, and also of ministers of religion.

The erection of these buildings is a satisfactory proof how far the inhabitants of the colonies value the services of the Church, and give a preference to her ordinances over those which are so officiously tendered to them by sectarian teachers.

The greater part of the charge devolves upon the poor settlers themselves, who, notwithstanding their most unwearied exertions are required for the maintenance of themselves and families, have set apart some portion of their scanty resources to enable them to avail themselves of the occasional ministry of any clergyman who may have it in his power to visit them.

The following Extract from Bishop Inglis's Report, will exhibit a proof of this prevalent feeling:

"On Monday, 6th June, I proceeded with Mr. Shreve to Sherbrook, a new settlement of disbanded soldiers, in the midst of the forest, twenty miles from the church at Chester, and visited once in every month by Mr. Shreve. The road at present is only fit for a horse.

Here I was greatly gratified and surprised by the rapid improvement which in ten years had formed this place into a beautiful settlement.

When Mr. Shreve first proposed building a church in this place a few years ago, I considered the attempt romantic; and fearing a total failure, I discouraged

couraged the undertaking. He was however better acquainted with the zeal of these poor settlers, and persevered. The result is, that with the assistance of £.150. from several quarters, an uncommonly neat church, beautifully situated on a hill, is completely finished and painted, with the exception of the pews, which are yet to be made."

The average expense of these buildings may be calculated to vary from £.400. to £.800. according to their dimensions. Sir T. Cochrane, the Governor of Newfoundland, in his dispatch to Earl Bathurst, states that in many instances the *people have been known to give one half of their all* to make suitable preparations for the occasional visit of a clergyman. Sir Thomas has strongly recommended the addition of six Chaplains to the Clerical Establishment of the Island, and the erection of a second Church at St. John's, where at present there is only one for the accommodation of nearly 12,000 Inhabitants.

Many years since, Sir P. Maitland reported, that thirty additional Missionaries would find ample employment for their best exertions in the Province of Upper Canada alone; and the latest accounts from the Bishop of Quebec, contain the strongest representations upon the importance of sending further assistance to the spiritual wants of the people in Lower Canada, where at present most of the missionaries have a sphere of duty, embracing a circuit of not less than *forty or fifty* miles.

(signed) *Anthony Hamilton.*

1824.

## CHURCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

NAME AND PLACE.	NOW BUILT.	NOW BUILDING.	NOW WANTED.
Amherst - - -	1	-	-
Annapolis - - -	1	- - -	1
Antigonish - - -	1	-	-
Aylesford - - -	1	-	-
Chester - - -	1	-	-
Clements - - -	1	-	-
Cole Harbour - - -	- - -	- - -	1
Cape Breton - - -	1	- - -	2
Cornwallis - - -	1	- - -	1
Dalhousie - - -	- - -	- - -	1
Dartmouth - - -	1	-	-
Digby - - -	1	-	-
Falmouth - - -	1	-	-
Granville - - -	3	-	-
Guysboro - - -	1	-	-
Halifax - - -	2	- - -	1
Horton - - -	1	-	-
Kennet Cook, or Douglas - - -	- - -	- - -	1
Liverpool - - -	1	-	-
Lunenburg - - -	1	-	-
Margarcts Bay - - -	- - -	1	-
Musquedoboit - - -	- - -	1	-
New Dublin - - -	- - -	1	-
Newport - - -	1	-	-
Parrsboro' - - -	1	-	-
Picton - - -	- - -	1	-
Forwarded - - -	22	4	8

NAME OF PLACE.	NOW BUILT.	NOW BUILDING.	NOW WANTED.
Brought forward	22	4	8
Porter's Lake - - -	- - -	1	-
Preston - - -	- - -	1	-
Rawdon - - -	1	-	-
Rimshey - - -	- - -	1	-
River John - - -	- - -	- - -	1
Sackville - - -	1	-	-
Sheet Harbour - - -	- - -	- - -	1
Shelbourne - - -	1	-	-
Sherbrooke - - -	- - -	1	-
Tracadie - - -	1	-	-
Truro - - -	1	-	-
Weymouth - - -	1	-	-
Wilmot - - -	1	-	-
Windsor - - -	1	-	-
Yarmouth - - -	1	-	-
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>

Of the above Churches no more than 5 were built when a Bishop was first sent to Nova Scotia in 1787.

CHURCHES.

	N° of CHURCHES.
Nova Scotia - - - - -	40
New Brunswick - - - - -	26
Prince Edward's Island - - - - -	2
Upper Canada - - - - -	46
Lower Canada - - - - -	30
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