

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:
CHATHAM, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1846.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE BISHOP'S VISITATION.

On the evening of the 4th inst., according to appointment, the Lord Bishop of Fredericton arrived at Boies Town, where he was received and welcomed by the Rev. Samuel Bacon, and the Rev. the Visiting Missionary for the District. There being no Church in this Settlement, the Congregation, which is not very numerous, assembled at half-past 6 o'clock in a School House. Evening Prayer was said by Mr. Hudson, assisted in the Lessons by Mr. Bacon, after which the Bishop preached a plain, practical sermon from Hebrews vii. 26. and then dismissed the people with his blessing.

Having a hard day's work in prospect. The Bishop and his Clergy were early in motion on the following morning, and at half-past nine A. M. they reached a Missionary station in Ludlow, about twelve miles from Boies Town. There a procession was formed, and the Bishop, followed by his Clergy and people, proceeded to the Burial ground, [the gift of Mr. F. McNamee] which was solemnly set apart to receive the bodies of the departed, and retain them in its bosom till the morning of the Resurrection. The Confirmation service was then commenced in an unfinished dwelling house, and the Bishop administered that blessed ordinance to a little band of thirteen persons.

During the Bishop's kind and impressive address to the people, His Lordship expressed his earnest hope, that a Church would be ready for consecration on his next visit to their interesting settlement, & affectionately urged upon all who were assembled, the necessity of putting a decent and substantial fence around their now consecrated Church-yard, in room of the unsightly stakes with which it is at present surrounded. Divine service being concluded, the following address was presented to the Bishop, by James L. Price, Esq., on behalf of the people:—

My Lord,

We, the undersigned members and friends of the Church of England, in the parish of Ludlow, beg most respectfully to tender to your Lordship our sincere and affectionate welcome on your arrival in this part of your Diocese.

We rejoice in the conviction that your Lordship's apostolic labours have already, under Divine Providence, produced throughout the Province, many of those valuable benefits which result from the diffusion of true Religion; and we humbly trust that the Almighty Disposer of events may continue to bless your endeavours for the dissemination of Christian principles, affections, and habits, among the people of this Colony.

We earnestly hope that under Your Lordship's auspices, sound education and genuine piety will no longer be lightly esteemed; but that persons of rank and influence, incited by your admonitions and example, may hereafter hold these blessings in that unfeigned love and respect which conduce so much to a speedy and just estimation of their real importance, in the community at large.

We avail ourselves of the present occasion to express to Your Lordship our grateful sense of the talent, zeal, and assiduity, with which the Reverend James Hudson, the Visiting Missionary of this District, has fulfilled his Clerical duties, among us, at a period when we regret to say, the long-continued want of sound Religious instruction, and the neglect of a due performance of Christian Worship, had led to great laxity of principle, and to unwarrantable prejudices, painfully increasing the difficulties of an office which requires under any circumstances, no common energy and perseverance.

Wishing Your Lordship the continual enjoyment of good health, and a large measure of the happiness afforded by that Divine Religion, which it is so eminently the business of your life to propagate and to adorn,

We are, My Lord, with high respect and esteem, Your Lordships most devoted servants,

JAMES L. PRICE J. P.,
ABLE POND
FRANCES MCNAMEE
DANIEL LYONS
ERASMUS G. PRICE
WILLIAM MCKAY
JAMES CLARKE

And one hundred and ten others.

The Bishop received the foregoing very graciously, and "thanked the people for the dutiful respect and kindness shown to himself and Mr Hudson."

The Bishop and Clergy now continued on their journey to Blackville, which they did not reach till near six o'clock. Here also the Burial Ground was rightly consecrated, for which the petition was read, and the sentence promulgated by Mr Hudson. Thirty duly prepared candi-

dates were then Confirmed in the church, after which the Bishop addressed them in his usual tender and emphatic manner. After prayers, a collection of fifty shillings was made, towards providing a Baptismal Font, of stone, for the use of this church. An address, a copy of which appeared in the last Gleaner, was then presented to the Bishop, in the church porch, by Thomas W. Underhill, Esq., to which his Lordship returned a kind and appropriate reply. The Bishop then set out for Nelson, and arrived about 11 o'clock at the inn of Mr James McKie, in that parish, where his Lordship spent the night.

On the following morning, at 11 o'clock, prayers were said by Mr Hudson, in the church now building in this settlement, the Lessons being read by Mr Bacon. An admirable sermon, from Acts II, 42, "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers," was preached by the Bishop, during the course of which his Lordship expressed his gratification at the hearty and reverential way in which the responses were made by the large congregation then present. After the sermon, the offerings of the people were collected by the clergy, to be applied towards finishing the church; these amounted to £18 10s., exclusive of the donations since received from the following persons, unable to be present: Mr John Harley, £1. Messrs. Joseph & William Samuel, £1. Theophilus DeBrisay, Esq., £5. David Hewson, Esq., £2; and from "An English Churchwoman," 10s.

In this parish there would have been a goodly number of candidates for Confirmation, but it was considered better to put off the administration of this ancient and Apostolic rite, until "all things could be done decently and in order." The service being ended, the Bishop shortly afterwards set out for the Rectory house, in Chatham, where his Lordship was entertained, during his stay in Miramichi, by his friend and connexion, Mr Bacon.

On Tuesday the 18th, the Bishop, accompanied by his Clergy, proceeded to Baies des Vents settlement, and was hospitably received at the farm-house of Messrs A. & W. Williston. At Evening Prayers in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, twenty three persons were confirmed by the Bishop, who as usual, reminded them in his parental address, of their Baptismal responsibilities, and the exceeding danger to the soul, of willfully neglecting the Lord's Supper and the other means of grace provided for them in their Church "without money or price." Here also the alms of the people amounting to £3 11 6, were received by the Clergy, to be expended in the purchase of a Baptismal Font, of stone, as ordered by the 81st Canon "to be set in the ancient usual places" of every English Church.

On this interesting occasion a few residents of Chatham were present, several of whom seemed impressed with the general effect of the arrangements in this House of Prayer, while it was remarked by one noble hearted visitor, that "he felt himself in a church once more." As soon as the Bishop had seen and conversed with the Churchwardens and Vestry of the Parish, he returned to Chatham, from whence he set out on the following morning for his Southern visitation, Les-tock P. W. DesBrisay, Esq. having conveyed his Lordship from Dickens's Inn to the Richibucto settlement.

It is earnestly hoped that the Bishop's late visit to Chatham, will be the means, under God, of restoring quietness and confidence to this important parish, serious differences of opinion on many points of doctrine and practice, have existed, and do still exist among English Churchmen, and may surely continue without interrupting the Christian charity and kindly feelings, which ought ever to prevail among those who have been baptised with the same holy baptism, have taken sweet counsel together, have walked to the same house of God as friends, and knelt around the same sacred altar.

All true-hearted sons of the tolerant English Church, can meet each other on common ground, and agree with each other in all essential matters; that ground is the time-honored *Book of Common Prayer*. Be it then their endeavour in future, to meet and agree on that ground, and to waste no more of their time, their energies, or their means, in tedious and perhaps unprofitable altercations. "When I view," says the good Bishop Horne, "the innumerable unhappy differences among Christians, all of whom are equally oppressed with the cares and calamities of life, I often call to mind those beautiful and affecting words which Milton represents Adam as addressing Eve, after they had wearied themselves with

mutual complaints and accusations of each other:

"But rise—let us no more contend, nor blame each other; blamed enough elsewhere; but strive in offices of love, how we may lighten Each other's burden in our share of woe."

Paradise Lost, book X.—953.

SHEDIAC.

His Lordship the Bishop of this Diocese, arrived in Shediac on Saturday, the 22nd, and on Sunday following addressed a very numerous Congregation, and ministered the rite of Confirmation to thirty-four candidates. In the afternoon, His Lordship proceeded to St Audon's Church, Cocaigne, accompanied by the Clergy and a great many of the respectable inhabitants of Shediac, where Evening Service was performed and the divine rite also administered. On Monday an address was presented to him by the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestry of Saint Martin's Church, Shediac, after which the Madras School, under the superintendance of Mr. Tayle underwent a highly creditable examination, and of which His Lordship was pleased to express his approbation.

BEND PETTICODIAC.—In making an excavation for a Cellar at the Bend village during the past week, fourteen coffins were discovered a few feet from the surface containing the remains of human bodies. In one of these was found a skull with part of the hair attached, and a heart and liver in a state of preservation: from any information which we can obtain from the oldest inhabitant now residing there must have been deposited at last a Century ago.

[COMMUNICATED.]

LADIES BIBLE SOCIETY.

On the 26th inst., the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Miramichi Ladies Auxiliary Bible Society was held in St. John's Church, Chatham, Mrs Abrams, President in the Chair.

The meeting was opened with prayer, by the Rev. John M'Curdy, who, after a few remarks, congratulating the ladies on the present prosperous state of the society, and pleading for still stronger exertions, read, for the Secretary, the subjoined Report.

The following Resolutions were unanimously passed:

1. That the Report now read be received, and printed in the Gleaner, along with a List of the Subscribers and Benefactors.
2. That this meeting present their thanks to the Benefactors of this Institution, and appreciate the liberality with which the other sex respond to the call of this Society in so good a cause.
3. That this Society commit themselves afresh to the direction of the Divine Author of the Scriptures, and pray that he may bless their labours more and more.
4. That £20 of the receipts be put down to the purchase account, and that the remainder be presented to the Parent Society, as a Donation, one half, as usual, to be appropriated to the China Fund.
5. That the thanks of the meeting be presented to the Collectors, for their valuable exertions.
6. On application of the President, that 18 Testaments be granted to Mrs Merry, of Newcastle, for the benefit of her school.

The under-named were chosen as Office Bearers for the ensuing year.
President.—MRS ABRAMS. Vice Presidents.—Mrs Clarke, Mrs D. Johnstone, and Mrs D. Perley. Treasurer.—Mrs M'Curdy. Secretary.—Mrs C. Thomson. Committee.—Mrs Porter, Mrs Jas. Kerr, Mrs Dr Thomson, Mrs A. Fraser, Mrs T. Little, Mrs Allison, Mrs J. Spratt, Mrs Hea, Mrs Harkins, Mrs Joseph Cunard, Mrs Henry Cunard, Mrs James Thomson, Mrs John Urquhart.

Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Miramichi Ladies' Auxiliary Bible Society.

Your committee, in presenting their Report for the past year, have much pleasure in announcing that your modest but untiring Society has not only held its ground; but, compared with previous years, has manifested signs of increasing life and activity.

Two cases of Books—one from the London Depot, and one from a Bookseller in Glasgow—have been imported during the year. The former contained 19 Family Bibles, with Marginal References, of which 3 have been sold; and the latter 102 Bibles and Testaments, with the Psalms, Paraphrases, and Hymns, and a collection of Tunes in each; all of which, with the exception of 1 Testament, were disposed of in a few weeks. A few of the old stock also have been sold and distributed gratuitously. The Glasgow case was paid for out of funds of the previous year.

Mr Jackson, Assistant Foreign Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, thus acknowledges your last remittance:—"You will see the manner in which we have appropriated it; namely, £10 for the Books ordered,

£11 7 6 for the China Fund, and £11 7 6 for the general fund of the Society, in all £32 15 sterling, for which latter liberal contributions our committee desire to tender to you and their friends of the Miramichi Ladies' Bible Association their unfeigned thanks."

There have been sold during the year 76 Bibles and 39 Testaments; and there have been given gratis 5 Bibles and 17 Testaments, in all 137 copies of the Word of God. Included in the above is a free grant of 4 Bibles and 12 Testaments to a Sabbath School up one of the branches of this River, on the application of the Rev. R. Shepherd. The proceeds of all the sales amount to £14 0 3 1-2. This exceeds any previous year since 1836.

In the department of Free Contributions, your committee have to notice a gratifying increase over any preceding year. This increase appears not only in the gross amount, but in each Collector's returns. It is apparent in every section over which the labours of the Collector's extend, in the country places as well as in the more populous villages or towns, shewing that the Society is growing in the affections of the public. True, this liberality is very far short of the high demands of God, and of the crying wants of the heathen world; still it is refreshing to see even small symptoms of increasing zeal in the cause. Let your Society but zealously and religiously hold on its way; let it put forth all its energies, and cry mightily to God for his blessing, and then, instead of numbering its receipts by tens, it will announce them to the community in hundreds of pounds.

The total of free contributions for the year £53 15 11, making the whole of the receipts £67 16 2 1-2.

We are sometimes met with the objection, that there are not resources in the community to sustain, upon an extensive scale, a religious and benevolent institution, and that our demands are more frequent and clamorous than pecuniary circumstances justify. This objection does does injustice to the country. Your committee have reason to believe that religious ordinances, in the various congregations, have of late years been much more liberally and cordially sustained, than formerly. This increased liberality has kept pace with the multiplication and growth of other institutions, both of a secular and religious character, shewing that the exertions made for one, do not cripple the energies of others; but on the contrary, that there is a mutual and combined influence for good upon all. Thus it has always been, and thus it always will be. A benevolent feeling operating in any one sphere, grows and expands, till it longs to embrace every object, in which the human family can be benefited. Like every other disposition, and every faculty, it strengthens by exercise. Benevolence in the christian is especially a growing principle. It pants and labours to meet the demands of the great law.

The members of the community comprising the other sex, during the year in which we have to record our greatest success, have come nobly forward and organized a Tract Society, and have remitted a Bill of more than £50 sterling, to purchase religious publications. Yet the number of benefactors to your society, among the gentlemen, is not diminished, but increased; and could your committee have access to what passes between them and the female portion of their families, they would doubtless be able to affirm, that no head of a family or brother, who has subscribed to the Tract Society, has ever seriously used this as a plea for withholding from a wife, a daughter, or a sister, that which would enable her to contribute to the Bible Association. Your committee are firmly persuaded that he who has given to the one object, with christian motives, has the more cheerfully contributed to the other also.

It is delightful, amid the daily strivings of industry, in this hard-working and thriving community, to see bursting forth a spirit of religious enterprise; and may not your Society, which has closed its five and twentieth year, and which has clung together and struggled on through many discouragements, have had some instrumentality in producing these tokens of brighter and better days? It was always quietly and unostentatiously working, tho' in solitude, and no sister Institution to cheer it on. For years it was the confession of every one—"The Ladies Bible Association is the only standing society in Miramichi;" and there were some who predicted that even it would fall. By God's blessing, however, it has lived, and gradually developing itself, and proving that persevering efforts are certainly crowned with success, it has helped to call forth other Institutions that bid fair to bless the land. Your Committee do not wish that those young Institutions may outstrip your old and venerable Society; but while we pray that they may grow up to vigorous, enterprising, and prosperous manhood, we also pray that yours may know no decline—that as it has first started in the race, it may ever lead the way, and inspire the others onward by its noble example.

Opposition to a good and righteous cause generally issues in its prosperity. Your society has been loudly spoken against: but the effect has been, that while the love of a few of its friends has waxed cold, the rest have had their attachment strengthened, and many new and liberal friends have been added to its lists. Its numbers now stand higher than at any former period.

Your Committee here furnish a comparative statement of the society's receipts for the last four years, shewing a steady increase on each successive year, and a very large increase in the year just now closed.—1843, £25 15.

1844, £35 1 9.
1845, £38 15 11.
1846, £67 16 2 1-2.

The receipts of the Parent Society for the