



ROYAL GAZETTE.

[SUPPLEMENT.]

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1842.

The following Circular has been addressed and forwarded to the several Clerks of the Peace, and is now Published by Order of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor:—

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

FREDERICTON, 11th April, 1842.

SIR,—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having had under his consideration the very defective and unsatisfactory system under which Licences for keeping Parish Schools have been granted, has directed me to desire you to draw the attention of the Trustees of Schools and Boards of Education, in your County, to the instructions herein inclosed, which His Excellency is desirous should be conformed to in all future cases, when application for such Licences may be made, in addition to the Regulations which have already been prescribed in regard thereto. I am further directed to call your attention to the seventh Section of the Act 7 W. 4, c. 8, which must be strictly observed; and you are to transmit regularly every six months to the Lieutenant Governor certified Copies of the Returns therein required, to be made by the Teachers of Schools.

You will also take care to call upon the Justices of the Peace of the County, to make regularly the Returns required by the 8th Section of the same Act.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed)

WM. F. ODELL.

CUSTOM HOUSE,

SAINT JOHN, N. B., 10th May, 1842.

NOTICE.—Agreeable to the 36th Section of the Act 3 & 4 William 4th, Chapter 59, I hereby give Notice that I have appointed and approved of the Building belonging to Mr. JAMES KIRK, situate in Nelson Street, in this City, for the Warehousing and securing of all Goods for the purposes of the said Act.

W. STRINGER, ACT. COLLECTOR.

Published by Order of the Lieutenant Governor

WM. F. ODELL.

Secretary's Office, 13th May, 1842.

[From the Miramichi Gleaner, April 26.]

VISIT OF MAR YOHANNA,

THE NESTORIAN BISHOP, TO THE UNITED STATES.

[A friend has requested us to transfer to our columns the account of the visit of the Nestorian Bishop to Boston; 'a narrative,' says the Editor of the Church, 'full of deep but quiet interest;' as we read it, we felt drawn nearer, by centuries, to the Apostolic age; and our belief in the divine institution of Episcopacy struck deeper root as we dwelt on each detail, and almost heard Bishop Yohanna proclaim, 'Our Church is from the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, and I am happy to find it like your Church. We have Bishops, Priests and Deacons. Our Prayer Books are like your Prayer Books. Our Religion old Religion.']

On Sunday morning, February 27, Mar Yohanna, the Nestorian Bishop, attended divine service at Grace Church in this City, (Boston) and received the Sacrament at the hands of the Right Reverend Bishop Griswold. Prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Snow, and at the close of the ante-communion service, the Rev. Mr. Clark, Rector of the Church, made the following Address:—

The present is an occasion of deep interest to us, both as Christians and as Churchmen. The stranger who worships with us to-day, has travelled many thousands of miles, for the purpose of seeing a people where the Bible is in every one's hands, and in the vernacular language of the country. He wishes to trace the influence of our high privileges, as developed in the character and institutions of this nation.

His residence is in the far east, where American Missionaries had never penetrated until the year 1830, when the Rev. Messrs. Smith and Dwight, under the direction of the American Board, in a tour of observation, travelled about 700 miles from the Black Sea to the interior of Asia, where they discovered the Nestorian Christians, surrounded by Persian and Turkish Mohammedans. Until this time, this secluded people had lived in profound ignorance of even the existence of our western Churches. They had indeed seen Romish Ecclesiastics, and had witnessed their religious ceremonies; but regarding some of

their doctrines as unscriptural, and certain of their services as idolatrous, they could not sympathize with them as Christians.

The district of country inhabited by the Nestorians lies partly in Persia on the east, and partly in Mesopotamia on the west. It contains a population of about 140,000, of whom 30,000 reside in the beautiful plain of Ooroomiah. The village of Galivan, situated in this plain, and within two miles of the lake of Ooroomiah, is the residence of our beloved friend, Mar Yohanna, Bishop of the Nestorian Church, who visits our Church to-day, that he may partake with us, and with our own respected Bishop, of the Holy Sacrament of the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Most gladly and cordially do we welcome a Christian Bishop, from the midst of venerable and benighted Asia, to the table of our common Lord. In the long continued existence of the Church which he represents, shut out from all communion with other Christians, and environed by influences altogether hostile to the Christian faith, we detect a most interesting proof of the divine origin and divine power of our Holy Religion.

And our interest in the Nestorian Church is greatly heightened, when we perceive in its constitution, its forms, and its doctrines, so striking a similarity to those of our own communion. Its constitution is Episcopal; there have always existed in this Church these three orders of the Ministry—Bishops, Priests and Deacons; and the peculiar powers and duties of each of these orders are essentially the same as with us.

They have a liturgy, which, so far as we can learn, is not unlike our own in its general features; in the arrangement of their ecclesiastical year, their fasts and festivals, in the responsive use of the Psalter, in the introduction of stated lessons of Scripture, in the repetition of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer in every service, and in the form of administering the Communion, as well as in the usual dress of the officiating Minister, we see a remarkable correspondence between the Nestorian and the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The doctrines of the Nestorian Church harmonize, in all important particulars, with those of the reformed Evangelical Churches. The doctrine of the Trinity, of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as the substance of Christian duty, and of the Holy Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are recognized in the formularies of this Church in a manner similar to that in which they are held amongst us. Picture and image worship, invocations of Saints and Angels, and Prayers to the Virgin Mary, so prevalent in the Romish and Greek Churches, are abhorred by the Nestorians as unscriptural and blasphemous.

The plan of the Ooroomiah, 40 miles long by 20 in width, contains about 330 villages, of which 15 are under the spiritual supervision of Bishop Yohanna, comprising 20 Priests and 40 Deacons. The more ancient Churches are built of stone. The records of one of these go back about 1200 years; and another, in the town of Ooroomiah, is said, by tradition, to have been founded by the wise men who went from the East to Jerusalem, when the Saviour was born, and were led by the star to Bethlehem.

It is also a current tradition that Christianity was established in this part of Asia by Saint Thomas the Apostle; and this is by no means improbable, as the Church ritual of the Nestorians frequently refers to this Disciple, and many of their Churches are called by his name. For many centuries the Nestorians were a powerful and zealous Christian people. In the middle ages they were especially renowned for their Missionary enterprise; between the years 636 and 781, no less than 70 Missionaries from this Church, whose names are still preserved, labored in the Empire of China; the Gospel was promulgated in 10 Provinces, and all the Cities were supplied with Churches. Ecclesiastical historians say there is conclusive evidence that as early as the seventh century, China contained numerous Christians, over whom presided, during several subsequent centuries,