

From the Journal of the Bishop of Antigua.

B. W. I.

## PONCE. VIEQUES. SAN JUAN.

1872. June 4th-11th. On the invitation of the members of the several Reformed Churches in Ponce, Porto Rico, the Bishop paid his first visit to that place, accompanied by the Rev. J.C. Du Bois, Rector of St Paul's Church, St Croix. During the eight days frequent services were held in a private house fitted up for the purpose. A Church Committee of five was organised, elected by the Protestants of the several Churches, and measures were taken for immediately erecting a Church, and providing for the future maintenance of a Pastor.

(The Bishop was Bishop W.W. Jackson Lord Bishop of Antigua 1860 - 1895. He resided in England from 1879 till his death. The Bishop of Barbados, Bishop Hutchinson acted as Co-adjutor from '79 - '82, when Charles James Branch was Consecrated as Co-adjutor and acted as such till he succeeded as Diocesan in 1895, dying in 1896 and being succeeded by Herbert Mather, 1897-1904.

1873. January 21st-26th. Second visit of the Bishop to Ponce, Porto Rico, with a view to erection of a Church and formation of a congregation there. The Bishop laid the foundation-stone of the Church on a site granted by Messrs Wieckers & Co in the presence of the Protestant inhabitants and a large concourse of Roman Catholic visitors.

1874. July 17th-26th. The Bishop accompanied by his Chaplain, the Rev. C.J. Branch, spent this period in Porto Rico with the congregation in Ponce, and on the 23rd Consecrated the Church lately built there and now dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

1875. Confirmation at Ponce. (May?)

1878. Confirmation at Ponce May 20th. 28 Candidates.

1882. Archdeacon Branch with the Rev. B.N. Branch arrived in Ponce and remained ~~there~~ for three days, May 6th - 8th. The Rev. Val Espinosa then being Rector.

July 16th.

1883. The Bishop left St Thomas for Ponce, Porto Rico. On his way there he stopped at San Juan, the Capital, where he called on H.B.M Consul, ~~and with~~ Stevens, and with him called on the Captain-General the Marquis De La Vega Ingran. The Bishop baptised a child. July 18th the Bishop reached Ponce in the evening and was received on board by the Rector, the Rev. Z. Valespinoza. During his visit the Bishop was taken ill and remained so the whole time. July 22nd. The Bishop was able, however, to hold a Confirmation this day at Holy Trinity Church at which 11 persons were confirmed.

1885. Feb. 17th. The Bishop and Archdeacon Myre Hutson arrived at San Juan Porto Rico and paid a visit to the Captain-General accompanied by H.B.M Consul G. Finlay. The Bishop baptised two children of Protestant parents and also held a short service in a private house assisted by the Archdeacon. After this there was a celebration of Holy Communion.

proceeded to

The Bishop and Archdeacon ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Ponce on Feb 19th and remained there till 22nd. Feb.

*visita*  
*A Vieques*  
23rd Feb 1885. The Bishop and Archdeacon arrived in Vieques where the latter was left for the purpose of making a visitation of the Church of England people there.

24th Feb. The Bishop returned to Vieques and landed there, this being the first visit of an Anglican Bishop to the Island. The Bishop called with the Archdeacon on the Governor and H.B.M Consul. He afterwards authorized the performance of two marriages by the Archdeacon, such marriages being also authorized by the Consul as they were between British subjects.

1885  
25th Feb. Divine Service was held by the Bishop and the Archdeacon in a private house lent for the purpose and the Holy Communion was administered. The Bishop was received in Vieques and attended all through his stay by Mr Joseph Bean, a resident in the Island who has for some years been reading Prayers and conducting a Sunday School, and who now desires to be licensed as Catechist. A Formal licence as Catechist it was not considered advisable to give him, but he received verbal permission to continue his work at all events until the next visit of the Archdeacon, who would report thereon.

1886. November 23rd. The Bishop accompanied by the Rev. A. Semper (Rector of Tortola) and C.H. Branch left St Thomas by the schooner Georgiana for the Spanish Island of Vieques and arrived there the same evening.

24th Nov. The Bishop and his companions called on the Alcalde and on the British Consul, accompanied by Mr Bean, the Reader and Catechist in Vieques. Divine Service was held in a large room lent for the purpose and Holy Communion was administered. In the same day in the afternoon a Confirmation was held by the Bishop at which 20 were confirmed, 8 men and 12 women. This was the first Confirmation (C of E) ever held in this Island.

25th Nov. The Bishop and his party left Vieques for Ponce, P.R. and arrived there the same day, being received by the Rector, the British Consul and others. They remained there till the 29th. A Confirmation was held on the 26th when 9 men and 20 women were confirmed.

1892. November 12th. The Bishop arrived at San Juan, the capital of Porto Rico and was received by Reginald Herslet Esq, H.B.M. Consul in Porto Rico, in whose house he lodged. 13th. The Bishop administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the house of Mr Herslet. He afterwards held Divine Service and preached there. The Bishop confirmed, in the same house, there being no Church ~~xxxxx~~ in San Juan, four persons, one man and three women. The Bishop held Divine Service the same evening at the house of H. Best Esq, Clerk in charge of the Telegraph Company's work, and preached there. 14th. The Bishop left San Juan for Ponce by an overland route of 81 miles. 15th the Bishop held a Confirmation at Holy Trinity Church at which 25 persons were confirmed 2 men and 23 women. 16th the Bishop left Ponce for San Juan.

1893. February 25th. An Ordination was held in the Parish Church of St. John (St Croix) at which the Rev Joseph ~~Bean~~ Nathaniel Bean Curate of All Saints in Vieques and the Rev John William Leverock Curate of Christ Church Saba were ordained Priests.

1894. February 21st. The Bishop accompanied by the Revs C.H. Branch and A. Semper, left St Thomas in the schooner Georgiana for Vieques in the Spanish West Indies and arrived there the same day. The Bishop made official visits to the Alcalde and the British Consul. The Bishop consecrated for use as the Church the house which had been bought and fitted up for Divine Service by the Rev. J.N. Bean, the Curate in charge. The Bishop's Chaplain preached on the occasion. 22nd Feb. A Confirmation was held in the now consecrated Church, called All Saints, at which 4 persons were confirmed, 1 man and 3 women. The Rev Joseph Nathaniel Bean, late Curate in charge, was instituted Rector of All Saints Vieques and was inducted at a public service, a large number of people being present.

1898. April 12th. An early start was made in the Maid of the Mist for Vieques, the Archdeacon accompanying the Bishop (Mather) as Chaplain. Porta Mula was reached in seven hours. With but little delay a large boat-load of officials and friends came off to the schooner. To the surprise of both the Bishop and Archdeacon Mr Bean, the Rector, was found to be so blind from cataract that he could scarcely see how to walk and is quite unable to read the lessons or the psalms in Church. In the afternoon the Bishop confirmed 2 males and 3 females. He was much distressed at the apathetic state of the church.

13th - 15th April. It took two days and a half to get from Vieques to San Juan, Pto Rico, partly because the captain of the schooner insisted on going outside Culebra, thereby adding several score of miles to the route. On arrival at San Juan the Bishop and Archdeacon were welcomed and most hospitably entertained by Mr G. Finlay the British Vice-Consul. Four children were baptised.

16th. The Bishop assisted by the Archdeacon married in the British Consulate George Crawford, the British Consul, to Adelaide daughter of G. Finlay Esq. He afterwards paid ceremonial visits to the Governor General and to the Provisour of the Dioceses, by each of whom he was received with dignified courtesy.

17th. The Bishop held a service in the morning in the British Consulate at which 48 persons were present besides one one who was arrested by the police during the service. He celebrated the Holy Communion and preached and there were 8 communicants. In the afternoon he paid a long visit to the prison where an Englishman is detained on the charge of photographing the fortifications for the United States Government. At sundown the Maid of the Mist left San Juan.

20th. The town of Ponce was reached in the morning; Mr F. Toro hospitably entertained the Bishop. In the evening a Congregation of some 200 persons assembled in the Church which had not been used for two years. The Bishop preached.

21st. The Bishop celebrated Holy Communion. There were 25 communicants. Four children were afterwards baptised.

1898. September 21st. The Bishop went to Ponce via St Thomas arriving there on the 24th. He was most kindly received by Mr Toro the British Vice-Consul who gave him the most liberal hospitality.

All Saints  
Vieques

Bishop  
Mather

1896-  
1898  
USA

BISHOP'S LODGE,  
ANTIGUA,  
B. W. I.

The Bishop called on General Henry the Officer in command of the United States forces occupying the district, by whom he was courteously and cordially ~~received~~ welcomed.

25th Sept. The Bishop remained in Ponce holding two services in the Church on Sundays Sept 25th and Oct 2nd and celebrating Holy Communion on the latter date and visiting the many sick in the military hospital and holding services for the nurses.

October 6th. General Henry most kindly allowed the Bishop to take a passage in the Government steamer which was going to various places in Puerto Rico and to the Island of Vieques.

Oct 10th. The Bishop returned to Ponce and the following day went to St Thomas. There he had to spend 15 days in quarantine. On his release the Archdeacon hospitably received him.

1899. July 3rd. The Bishop sailed in a French steamer for Ponce which he reached the next day. He found the Rev. F. Caunt had done a considerable work in gathering and organising a congregation.

9th July. The Bishop celebrated Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m.. At 9.30 a.m. he confirmed 6 males and 6 females and preached in the evening.

11th July. The Bishop returned to St Thomas in an Italian steamer.

Padre  
Caunt  
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