

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

IRREVERENT SERVICES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR—I hope you will permit me to protest in your pages against a practice, which is daily grieving many devout persons, and depriving them of the comfort which they would otherwise derive from a participation in the public offices of the Church. I allude to the rapid, very indistinct and hurried manner of reading and responding adopted in many Churches: and herein especially to the abominable habit of "overlapping," by which I mean the beginning of verses or sentences before the termination of those which precede them. So common is this practice becoming, that it would almost seem to be intentionally designed to deprive the people of their part in "Common Prayer." For my own part I find it so impossible to pray or praise with the understanding "in some Churches, that I am compelled, not unfrequently, to give up the attempt in a state of bewilderment, and even I grieve to say of irritation at being thus baffled in my attempts to worship the Lord my Maker. The aim of the minister in such instances, seems to be to repeat in one breath as many words as possible, without the least regard to sense or stops, and with an utter indifference to small prepositions and conjunctions, and, I may add, of unaccented or unemphatic syllables generally. Nor is this all. Nor is it even the worst fault of which I complain. Before one has arrived in breathless haste and confusion at the end of a response, the impatient priest is scampering onwards in the middle of the succeeding sentences, of which the antepenultimate, or some previous word, is the only cue for the few initiated and glib-tongued respondents to begin their part. By this hurry and interlacing, the divine Psalms, or the Church's holy Hymns, are degraded into a mass of confused and senseless sound—*præterea nihil!* I never shall forget how much I was shocked, when I first heard the Apostle's Creed repeated in this strange, irreverent style. It appeared to me as if the congregation were practising one of those difficult tongue puzzles which must be repeated in a given time on pain of a forfeit. Nor had I recovered from my astonishment when the "Dominus Vobiscum" recalled me to prayer. When I am unfortunately obliged to listen to the admirable public service thus mangled, I involuntarily ask myself—can men who gabble in this manner suppose that the uneducated, the deaf, and the slow (of whom I probably am one,) are able to keep pace with them, or even to understand them? Can they realize the immediate presence of their Lord in the midst of His worshippers? And if they do, do they not address Him in a style which they would not dare to assume towards an earthly King? Do they adopt this breathless haste in their closets, when in solitude they worship Him who seeth in secret? Do they hope to do so when they join the saints in the heavenly temple, and sing in unison with the seraphim—"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts?" Surely such babbling is only worthy of the Priests of Baal, or of Buddha, or of those who ignorantly believe (as English Clergymen cannot consistently believe) that divine service consists not in hearty common worship, but chiefly, or solely, in the intercessory oblation of heartless lip-service on the part of the Priest and Choir. Hoping that the subscription of a real name and address may give greater reality to this complaint,

I am, Sir, yours very faithfully,

WILLIAM JOHN EDGE.

N. B.—This communication was not intended by the writer for its present destination, but as it is in some measure applicable to this community, it may not be "Mal à propos."

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1854.

THE COLLEGE.

It will be seen by our columns to-day, that the first step has been taken under the new Act, for the reorganization of King's College, namely the calling of a general meeting of the Alumni, to assemble at Halifax on Friday the 10th of February, for the purpose of electing a new Board of Governors. The advertisement gives such full particulars of all that is necessary for the information of those concerned, that nothing further is required.

It is to be hoped that the Alumni will evince their interest in the welfare of the Institution, now in such a critical position, by making all reasonable exertion to be present on the occasion, in order to exercise their elective privilege. There has been too much apathy, up to the present time, on the part of many who have been educated at Windsor, in reference to the concerns of the College; but if the institution is to live at all, or to maintain that rank among the Educational Establishments of the day, to which it is entitled, there must be apathy no longer. It behoves every alumnus and every friend of King's College, to be up and doing, not only to address himself to the claims which it has upon his own exertions, but also to do his utmost, to awaken and extend a lively interest in its behalf, as widely as he can, that an efficient response may be made to the appeal which will shortly be issued, for the needful funds to sustain the Institution.

It has been our misfortune, both as regards Church and College, that so much has hitherto been done for us by extraneous benevolence, that we have not learned the necessary quality of self-dependence. Our people have too generally yet to find out how to help themselves. They have been leaning so long upon the arm of others, that they can hardly be persuaded to take a step alone. But the time has arrived, when we must do, like those around us, set our own shoulders to the wheel, and extricate our Religious and Educational Institutions from the difficulties now surrounding them. It is incumbent upon all of us in our respective spheres, to endeavour to stir up that active interest in their behalf which, perhaps, has as yet been too lightly felt, but which, it is hoped, the pressure of the present crisis will call forth.

Let the members of the Church in the different Parishes take some pains to inform themselves and others on the subject—to consider the benefits already conferred by the College—its indispensable necessity for the supply of our ministers—its present crippled condition—the great change in its constitution, effected by the new Act, which throws it into the arms of its sons, secures its future management in their hands,—gives every alumnus a voice in its government—and preserves its firm connexion with the Church. Let care be taken to make known the desire now felt to enlarge the efficiency of the College, by the addition of two Professors, and the adaptation of its course of instruction to the practical wants of the country, and the progress of the age—so that any one, whatever be his position, may pursue at the institution just such branches of education as may suit his prospects in life, without being required to devote his time to those for which he has neither taste nor necessity. Let especial regard too be had to one important improvement, which we doubt not will be introduced,—namely, a permission to students to reside out of College, at places sanctioned by the President. Such a regulation, we think, will tend greatly to diminish the reluctance of parents to send their sons to the institution, and will be the means of attracting numbers within its walls. In short, we would earnestly impress upon our readers at the present time the great importance of a continual agitation of this subject, in order that from one end of the country to the other, the right sort of feeling may be aroused, and a determination created to uphold the old College by one bold, united and liberal effort.

The local meetings of the D. C. Society, will afford a good opportunity for such an exhibition of the merits and wants of the Institution. We believe that an appeal from the Executive Committee of Alumni, sanctioned by the Right Rev. the Visitor, will be put forth in a few days, to be followed up by the speedy visits of agents in the various sections of the Province. In our next we shall probably call attention to some details of the plan on which it is proposed to proceed.

SPIRITUAL RAPPINGS IN NOVA SCOTIA.—We observe by the Yarmouth Herald, that these abominations have crossed the Bay, and shown themselves among the worthy lieges about Yarmouth. We are glad to see, however, that they have been met by a sturdy antagonist, in Mr. Wilson, the Wesleyan Missionary, who has written a letter in the above paper which, if it does not lay the evil spirits who are disturbing the folk in that quarter, certainly lays on them and their votaries pretty soundly, and we trust his blows have been effectual to their utter expulsion from the land. He says truly, "It is humiliating to think that in this land of light and bibles a single individual should be found, who has no more mind than to be trifled with by such wicked nonsense," and he winds up with this smart rap at the rappers and their supporters, "Surely the people in this vicinity are not yet so infatuated as to give up their Bibles and deny the Lord that bought them, in order to follow the teaching of spirit rappers, writing mediums, jugglers and witches." "All that do those things are an abomination unto the Lord."—Deut. xxiii. 12.

We are sorry to find that the late gales were severely felt in P. E. Island, and especially that much injury has been done to St. Paul's Church at Charlotte Town, and to another in course of erection at Bedeque.

BISHOPRIC ENDOWMENT FUND.

SUBSCRIPTION,

Rev. W. Stewart, George Town, P. E. I., £5 0 0

E. GILPIN, JR.

Secretary.

OBITUARY.

During the past week, Andrew Richardson, Esq., a well known and highly respected member of this community, has been numbered with the dead. We but echo the voice of the whole community, in sincerely regretting the departure from among us of this esteemed individual. For more than 40 years he discharged with accuracy and conscientious fidelity, a laborious, responsible and often invidious office, in which he has been frequently exposed to great personal danger, which, however, never caused him to flinch the performance of his duty. For a nearly equal period his fine voice has been heard in the choir of St. Paul's, in which Church he was a never-failing attendant, ever taking a lively interest in all its concerns. His loss therefore will be especially felt by those with whom he was in this respect so long and so intimately connected. If the general sympathy of all classes during his painful illness of more than 3 months, and the universal regret evinced at his death, as expressed in the papers of all shades of political and religious opinion, can be consoling to his family, they have reason to be gratified by the evidence of such feeling, in an unusual measure.

D. C. S.

THE Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Church Society of Nova Scotia will be held (D. V.) at Halifax, on Thursday the 9th of February next. The Secretary requests the Local Committees to send in their contributions previous to that date, in order that they may be acknowledged at the general meeting.

EDWIN GILPIN, Junr.

Secretary.

The Secretary will be glad to receive any information about matters of local interest which may be suitable for publication in the annual Report of the Society.

We have to acknowledge from M. Richpy, Esq., a copy of the Colonial Life Assurance Company's Almanack for 1854, and the annual Report for 1853, which contains much interesting information, and describes the operations of the Society as very prosperous.

We have been politely favoured with a copy of the 1st Vol. of Reports of cases argued and determined in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, by Alex. James, Barrister, and Official Reporter, &c. We must leave it to gentlemen, learned in the law, to pronounce upon the merits of this work. Of its necessity however, even the unlearned may judge, and we doubt not that it will prove very valuable to the profession, and to the public in general. The present volume is preceded by a well written preface, and is intended to be followed annually by a similar publication, if, as may be hoped, the Legislature shall make provision for its continuance. The book is printed by James Barnes, and is for sale at the Book Store of Messrs. MacKinnlay.

Our contemporary of the Presbyterian Witness appeared last week in a new form, and rejoices in the accession, actual and expected, of a considerable number of subscribers. He now publishes the proceedings of all the Presbyterian bodies in the Province.

MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE.—This useful means of improvement continues to present itself to the attention of the community, but, we are sorry to observe, without attracting within its influence the numbers that might be expected. On Wednesday evening A. MacKinnlay, Esq., delivered an interesting and instructive lecture on Pneumatics, illustrated by several beautiful experiments. It is superfluous to add that the lecturer was quite at home in his subject, and that the announcement of his intention to continue his treatment of it, on the coming Wednesday, was received with satisfaction. The President announced that a class in architectural drawing is about to be formed, and also one of a practical description, in Geology, to both of which he earnestly invited the attention of the young mechanics of the city. It is to be hoped that the invitation will be accepted.

It would seem by the following extract that our neighbours in the U. S. are like ourselves, trying to raise funds for the permanent support of their Colleges.

SEMINARY AND COLLEGE.—We hope that the following item may catch the eye of the Alumni of the Virginia Theological Seminary, and stir them up to renewed efforts for the Seminary at the beginning of the new year. How much of \$50,000 for the permanent fund is secured?