

a priest belonging to the Diocese, or a layman who has been a member of some church within the diocese, at least *two* years before such nomination.

If on the day fixed for the trial, the accused shall appear, he shall, before proceeding to trial, be called upon by the Court to say whether he is guilty or not of the offence or offences charged against him; and on his neglect or refusal, the plea of not guilty shall be entered for him, and his trial shall proceed.

Exceptions to the form or substance, or any part thereof, or legal sufficiency of the charge or presentment, or any part thereof, or of the allegations or specifications therein, or to the jurisdiction of the Board of Triers or any member thereof may be taken by the accusers, and shall be determined by the Board.

Such exceptions shall be made in writing, at the time of pleading.

If no such exceptions are taken, or having been taken, are overruled, the accused shall be called upon to plead guilty or not guilty, as aforesaid, and the trial shall proceed.

If the clergyman accused neglect or refuse to appear, according to his summons, due notice having been served upon him as aforesaid, except for some sufficient or reasonable cause, the Court shall certify such default to the Bishop, whereupon the Bishop, or, in his absence, shall pronounce him to be in contumacy: and sentence of suspension from the ministry shall be forthwith pronounced against him, for such contumacy, by the Bishop; but this sentence may be revoked if, within three calendar months, he shall tender himself ready, and accordingly appear and take his trial on the presentment; but if the clergyman accused shall not so tender himself before the expiration of the said three months, the sentence of *deposition* from the ministry shall be pronounced against him by the Bishop; and the Bishop shall cause such sentence to be publicly read to the several congregations of the diocese by the respective ministers thereof.

No proceeding shall be instituted against any priest or deacon, unless the same be commenced within *two* years after the commission of the offence in question.

But when proceedings are brought in respect of an offence for which a conviction has been obtained in a civil or criminal tribunal, the suit in the Ecclesiastical Court may be commenced against the clergyman so convicted, within *two* years from the date of such conviction.

The accused party may have the privilege of appearing by counsel if he shall see fit.

All evidence shall be taken in writing.

When the Court proceeds to trial, some officer authorised by law