

REGULATIONS FOR THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CLERGY.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, it is expedient to define the mode in which the power of the Bishop shall be exercised: We, the Bishop, Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity of the Diocese of Nova Scotia, have agreed upon the following Rules, to be observed in order to secure a fair and impartial tribunal for the trial of any Clergyman who may hereafter be charged with any offence rendering him liable to Ecclesiastical censure.

I.—Whenever the Bishop may determine to institute proceedings against any Clerk in Holy Orders, who may be charged with any offence against the Laws Ecclesiastical, or concerning whom there may exist scandal or evil report, he shall issue a commission under his hand and seal to five Presbyters of not less than seven years standing, and the Commissioners so appointed, or any three of them, shall enquire into the truth of the charges alleged against the party accused, as set forth in their commission, notice of the time and place of such enquiry having been given to the party accused, and to the party, if any, upon whose application or complaint the commission may have been issued, not less than thirty days before the time appointed for the commencement of the enquiry.

And, in the course of such enquiry, the Commissioners shall receive all such evidence as may be tendered to them, whether for or against the party accused.

And the said Commissioners shall report in writing, under the hands of at least three of them, whether in the opinion of the majority of those present, there be or be not sufficient *prima facie* ground for instituting further proceedings; which report shall be accompanied by a copy of the evidence on which it is founded.

II. And in all cases when the Commissioners shall have reported that there is *prima facie* ground for further pro-

ceedings, the Bishop, or the Commissioners, may institute proceedings.

III. If the party accused shall not appear at the time appointed as hereafter, the Bishop, or the Commissioners, may proceed in the cause.

IV. Notice of proceedings shall be given to the party accused with a copy of the commission, and the name of the party standing, and the time from which the party is to appear, of error in doct. cases three Presbyters, his selection to receipt of said receipt, the party shall refuse the expiration of the list of names by three Presbyters aforesaid. And made by the party the case may be the place and date less than twenty same.

V. At the trial the Clerical and lay members shall examine the doctrine the three Commissioners; and the practice of Court and examination the satisfaction majority of the