

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1853.

TORONTO.

It will be seen by the subjoined letter of the Bishop to the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese, that they are to enjoy the benefit of free counsel together on the affairs of their Church, on the 12th instant. No doubt much comfort and benefit will accrue from this conference, notwithstanding the postponement of the Bill introduced into Parliament by the Archbishop. We trust another year will not elapse before we shall have the like privilege in this Diocese.

TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

MY DEAR BRETHREN:—In my circular to the clergy of the diocese of the 4th August last, I announced that in the present critical position of our ecclesiastical affairs, it was my intention to request the clergy and laity to assemble in conference on the 12th of October next, and at the same time to hold my triennial visitation.

My clergy will therefore be pleased to assemble on that day, in the cathedral church of St. James, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

In regard to the lay representation, it is my desire that every clergyman of the diocese invite the members of their mission or congregation, being regular communicants, to meet and select one or two of their number whom they deem the best qualified, to accompany him to the visitation and conference.

For the sake of order, it is requested that such lay members be furnished with certificates signed by the minister and churchwardens, that they have been duly appointed, to entitle them to take part in the proceedings which may take place subsequent to the visitation.

The meeting of the clergy has been postponed to a late period of the season, in the hope that the Bill for the regulation of the church in the colonies, introduced into parliament by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, would have passed and required immediate action; but as it has been thrown over to the next session, our deliberations must be confined, as at our conferences in May 1851 to such local matters of temporal character as require our urgent attention.

It is expected that such parishes, missions and congregations as accede to this invitation, will take measures to defray the necessary expenses incurred by their clergyman and representatives in their attendance on this important duty.

I remain, my brethren,

Your affectionate Diocesan.

JOHN TORONTO.

Toronto, Sept. 12, 1853.

BISHOP DOANE.—In our last, we gave the result of the long pending proceedings in this case. As many of our readers perhaps, are uninformed as to the precise nature of the charges against this Prelate, and have probably imbibed erroneous impressions both as regards the accusers and the accused, we give below the Bishop's own explanation of the whole affair, containing it will be observed, a complete acknowledgement of "just and proper motives," on the part of the Presenters.

BISHOP DOANE'S EXPLANATION.

The undersigned, in presenting his plans of Christian education in connection with St. Mary's Hall and Burlington College, found that the expenses of the enterprise greatly exceeded his calculations, while the assistance on which he had confidently relied, perhaps too sanguinely, fell altogether short of what he deemed his reasonable expectations. In this condition of things being entirely left alone and without advice, every step which he advanced involved him more and more deeply in pecuniary embarrassments. He admits that he made representations, which, at the time, he believed to be correct, but many of which turned out in the event to be erroneous. He was also led, by his too confident reliance on anticipated aid, to make promises which he fully expected to perform, but which experience has taught him were far too strongly expressed. He was also induced, for the sake of obtaining money to meet his necessities, to resort to methods by the payment of exorbitant interest on loans which he did not suppose were in contravention of the law and which common usage seemed to him to justify. He also, in entire confidence in his ability to replace them, made use of certain trust funds in a way which he deeply regrets; and although they have long been secured, does not now justify.

The embarrassments here referred to were followed by a long and well nigh fatal illness, which, withdrawing him entirely from the business which he had carried on alone, was mainly instrumental in the entire failure in his pecuniary affairs. The perplexity arising from this failure, with the protracted infirmity which followed his sickness, made him liable to many errors and mistakes, which might easily bear the appearance of intentional misrepresentations. In connection with the assignment of his property, he set his name and oath to an inventory of his goods, and also to a list of his debts, which he believed to be correct—an act which he grieved to find had given rise to an impression in the minds of some that he exhibited an insensibility to the awful sanctions of the oath of a

Christian man; but while he laments the impression he declares that this act was only done under legal advice, and in the firm conviction of its correctness.—Sometime after his recovery from the illness above alluded to, but while he was still in the midst of his perplexities, smarting under its heavy disappointments, and wounded by the imputations to which, in some quarters, he was subjected, the letter of the three bishops came to him. He had no disposition to ascribe to them any other than just and proper motives in thus addressing him, but at the time when he received the communication, he received it otherwise and under the strong excitement of the moment penned a pamphlet, part of which he does not now justify, and expressions in which, in regard to these brethren, he deeply regrets.

In reference to this indebtedness, he now renews the declaration of intention which he has constantly made, and has acted on to the utmost of his ability, thus far, to devote his means, efforts and influence, in dependence upon God's blessing, to the payment, principal and interest, of every just demand against him—an expectation which there is reasonable hope of having fulfilled, since a committee of the trustees and friends of Burlington College, by whom both institutions are now carried on, have undertaken an enterprise which is now nearly completed, to discharge the whole of the mortgage debt, and thus secure the property at Riverside and St. Mary's Hall, with that of Burlington College, to the church forever, for the purposes of Christian education. And this done, the trustees have further agreed to appropriate during his life the surplus income of both institutions to the liquidation of all his other debts in carrying on the said institutions. That, in the course of these transactions, human infirmity may have led him into many errors, he deeply feels; he does not wish to justify or excuse them. If scandal to the Church and injury to the cause of Christ have arisen from them, they are occasion to him of mortification and regret. For these things in all humility and sorrow before God and man, he has always felt himself liable to, and willing to receive the friendly reproofs of his brethren in Christ Jesus, and especially of the bishops of the Church.

G. W. DOANE.

Bishop of New Jersey.

Therefore, ordered, that the presentment before this court be dismissed, and the respondent be discharged without delay.

As a fitting winding up of this unhappy business, we append the remarks of the "Episcopal Recorder," a paper which has from the beginning taken strong grounds on the subject, and has frequently been involved in controversy respecting it, with Bishop Doane and his friends. The calm, dispassionate, and Christian spirit of those remarks, under such circumstances, does credit to the heart and head of the editor.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURT.

After a protracted struggle the affairs of the Bishop of New Jersey have been brought to a final issue in the highest Court known in our Church. The proceedings having been duly noted in our columns, it only remains for us to make a few remarks on the case, and especially on the conclusion reached. The first point that attracts our attention is:

The size of the Court. "If, in the multitude of counsellors there is safety," we may reasonably expect that a bench of twenty-one judges will contain a full share of wisdom, and give strong assurance of judicious counsel and secure action. Another point is:

The character of the Court. It is composed entirely of Bishops—an order in the Church which has been raised by successive steps from the rank of laics to deacons, from that to Presbyters, and thence to the Episcopate, every stage requiring renewed testimonials in their favour, of virtue, integrity, wisdom and godliness.

The spirit of the Court, as an element in the Episcopal office, must not be overlooked. When the Presiding Bishop delivers a copy of God's word to a newly-consecrated brother, he says to him: "Be thou to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost. Be so merciful that ye be not too remiss; so minister discipline, that you forget not mercy: that when the chief Shepherd shall appear you may receive the never-fading crown of glory."

It was in the generous exercise of this spirit that the Court reached the decision to dismiss the Presentment. The law of a former dispensation was rigorous and unbending; for its transgressor there was no hope—"he died without mercy." It is otherwise with the law of the Christian Church. It has a provision of grace; it breathes with mercy. "So minister discipline, that you forget not mercy."

The entire unanimity of the Court, in the vote recorded, can scarcely fail to impress all reasonable minds with a sense of the wisdom and justice of their action on the statement of the Respondent. They exercised a liberty of judgment as to his motives in the transactions referred to them, which we think the religious community will respond to, while the Presenting Bishops adhered to their legal position, and in so doing retire safely from the case, upholding the law, and being protected in the purity of their motives by the full admission of the Respondent, and an order of the Court. Bishop Doane has said enough to satisfy us, and we hope to satisfy the public, that he is indulging in right feelings and purposes towards all the transactions complained of, and we may hope, with

the blessing of Providence, he may live and be able to satisfy all concerned in them. It would seem almost impossible to pass through such trials and distresses as he has, without the impression of many important lessons, such as, through the grace of God, may turn all to a good and happy account at last.—*Ep. Rec.*

TRINITY PARISH, YARMOUTH.—The removal of the Rev. Mr. Spike, lately assistant Missionary at Tunket, in this Parish, has called forth the following address and reply:—

TUNKET PARISH OF TRINITY.
Yarmouth, N. S. Sept. 20, 1853.

Rev. and Dear Sir,

We, the Deputy Wardens, Vestrymen, and Parishioners of the above named Parish, residing in the district of St. Stephen's Church, of which you have been the minister for the last two years, beg most respectfully and affectionately to address you, now on the eve of your departure from this place.

It has been the pleasure and wisdom of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, for the benefit of our beloved Church, to remove you from among us, and promote you to the Parish of Newport, where a greater sphere of usefulness will be afforded you for prosecuting that zeal and ardour in the cause of religion and the Church which you are so well known to profess; and we pray that your labours through the Divine Will may be crowned with success.

We cannot too fully express our entire satisfaction for your ministerial labours and exertions in this community.

To your worthy Lady we also add our thanks, for her laborious zeal and diligence in promoting and keeping up the Sabbath School; a thing so very necessary in a young community like this.

We can only add in conclusion our sincere wishes for the safety of yourself, Mrs. Spike and infant, in your travel towards your new home.

We remain, Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your affectionate friends.

Signed by the Parishioners in the above named mission.

TUNKET, Sept. 21st. 1853.

My Dear Christian Friends,

I accept with gratitude your affectionate address, feeling I am unworthy of any commendations for my services among you. I was impelled by a sense of my ministerial obligations to labour as one that must give account to God. And whatever blessings may have resulted, to Him be all the praise who gives us that will and ability to serve Him in the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Although my ministrations among you have unexpectedly terminated, I am happy in knowing your spiritual wants will be zealously cared for.

The many acts of kindness I received from you have raised up many grateful remembrances; and I shall be most willing as far as lies in my power, to advance the interests of the Church among you.

The sphere of usefulness where I am about to labour as you very justly observe, is more extensive, and for this reason I earnestly beg your prayers in my behalf, that I may do the will of God from my heart with cheerfulness and fidelity.

Mrs. Spike requests me to thank you sincerely for the kind acknowledgement of her services in the Sunday School, praying that you and your children may be abundantly blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

I remain, dear friends,

Your affectionate Pastor.

HENRY M. SPIKE.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

As intimated in our last, this display has taken place, and has been very creditable to the Province, and to all concerned in its getting up and management.

Our limits will not admit of an extended notice. On Wednesday the weather was every thing that could be desired, and at the appointed hour crowds of people of all ages and ranks and of both sexes, were to be seen within and around the Horticultural Gardens, outside of which were ranged the horses, horned cattle, &c. entered for prizes or offered for sale. Within, dispersed through the various walks of the extensive gardens (the value of which as a place of public recreation was practically proved on this occasion) large numbers of persons were to be seen, viewing the numerous objects of attraction, which were presented on every side. Among these, the display of birds by Mr. Downs and others seemed to command the greatest admiration. During the whole day, the neighbourhood of this splendid collection was thronged by delighted spectators of all ranks and ages.