

CHARGE.

MY REVEREND BRETHREN,

Three years have elapsed since I last addressed you from this place. During this period much has occurred in favour of the Church, for which it becomes us to be thankful, and nothing of a calamitous or unexpected nature, that can seriously impede her future progress.

It is indeed delightful to behold the affections of our people embracing with so much pious cordiality and increasing knowledge her distinctive principles, and with what correctness they are beginning to appreciate the beauty and efficacy of her forms of order and worship, with which we feel that there are none to be compared in point of Scriptural authority, ancient usage, and intrinsic excellence, in promoting the growth of living Christianity.

We readily grant that the forms and ceremonies used in the celebration of Divine worship are not, properly speaking, religion itself; but they are, nevertheless, essential to its healthy existence and to the continuance of the visible Church, and were they removed, it would gradually disappear from the face of the earth.

But although the claims of the Church in our favour and affection are now more generally acknowledged, and the progress she has made in this Diocese, during the last three years, be very encouraging, we have yet to confess that, owing to circumstances over which we had no control, the number of our Clergy has not increased so rapidly as we had reason to anticipate.

Since we last met we have, from deaths, removals, and various casualties, lost about twelve Missionaries, and this has, in many ways, put us to great inconvenience; leaving