

approbation of the conduct of the Royal Engineers under Lieut.-Gen. Sir Henry Jones, who has conducted the siege operations from the beginning of this year. For some time past he has been suffering on a bed of sickness, but the eventual hour of the assault would not permit him to remain absent; he was conveyed on a litter into the trenches to witness the completion of his arduous undertakings. My warmest thanks are due to the officers and soldiers of the Royal Artillery under the command of Major-Gen. Sir R. Dares, who, during the arduous operations of this protracted siege, have so mainly contributed to its ultimate success. I must beg further to record my thanks for the cordial co-operation and assistance I have received in carrying out the details of the service from the Chief of the Staff, the Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, and General Staff, as well as generals commanding divisions and brigades of this army. I must reserve to myself, for the subject of a future despatch, bringing before your lordship the particular mention of officers of the various branches of this army, whom I shall beg to recommend to your favourable notice. I entrust this despatch to the care of Major-General the Hon. Leicester Curzon, who has been Asst. Military Secretary to my noble predecessor and myself since the commencement of this war, and who will be able to give your Lordship more minute details than the limits of a despatch will allow.—I have, &c.,

JAMES SIMPSON, General Commanding.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, OCT. 13, 1855.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.—SYNODICAL MEETING.

THE past week has been a most important one for the Church in this Diocese. The Clergy and Laity had been summoned to meet for two specific objects—one, the business connected with the general Meeting of the Diocesan Church Society, and 2dly to complete the formation of a Diocesan Assembly or Synod of the Church. On Sunday Sermons were preached and collections taken in behalf of the funds of the Diocesan Church Society—at St. Paul's in the morning by the Rev. Mr. Maynard, of Sackville, and in the evening by the Rev. Mr. Forsythe, of New Glasgow—at St. Luke's in the morning by the Rev. Mr. Snyder—at Dartmouth also, in the morning. The Rev. Dr. Shreve, by appointment, delivered an interesting discourse before the assembled Clergy and delegates in St. Paul's, on Wednesday morning—from 1 Peter, 5th chap. 4th verse. The sacrament of the Holy Communion was afterwards administered to the Clergy and delegates, and to such of the congregation as remained to partake thereof.

Wednesday being the day appointed for the general meeting of the D. C. S., the Members met at 2 p. m. in the National School. The Bishop took the Chair, and prayers being offered, much interesting business connected with the Church's welfare, was gone through in a spirit of good will and unanimity very pleasing to witness. Several subjects of importance were satisfactorily disposed of. The Secretary read the Annual Report. The insurance plan by which a fund is to be provided for the widows and orphans of deceased clergymen, was matured and will undoubtedly go into operation. Other matters in connection with the objects of the Society, having reference to various parishes and the interests of their incumbents came before the meeting—and a Resolution was affirmed, to give to the country parishes the right to choose as a representative or delegate to the Executive Committee any member of the Society—a rule which will tend to enlarge the former. There was Divine Service in the evening at St. Paul's.

On Thursday morning at 9 o'clock the assembled Clergy and Lay Delegates met at the Bishop's Chapel, to organize the Diocesan Assembly. After morning prayer the Bishop took the chair, and the Secretary, the Rev. E. Gilpin, proceeded to call over the names of the Clergymen and of the Lay Delegates, when 36 of the Clergy, and 26 of the lay delegates answered to their names, respectively.

Prayer was said by the Bishop, after which his Lordship opened the meeting with some excellent observation—in which he expressed himself well satisfied at seeing so good an attendance from every part of the Diocese with the exception of one portion, and even from that they were not without some delegates. One parish had taken a very prominent part in opposition to the Synod, but it did not appear, comparing the names in their protest with the names on the list of the D. Church Society from that parish, that many of the subscribers belonged to the Church, or contributed to its support. The Bishop, with reference to the objections that had been raised to the exercise of his authority in the Synod, and which the Assembly had a perfect right to consider in connection with its formation, was still obliged to say that he had not seen any that seemed to carry the least weight. In alluding to the attendance in

adverted to the difficulty in getting to Halifax from many parts of the Diocese—and considered that the present gathering of the Church was very creditable, and that it would compare favorably with the attendance at the Synodical meetings of other religious bodies. The objectors to a Synod of the Church had nothing to urge against these—but the moment the Church showed a little life, an evil spirit of opposition was at work—he was glad there was opposition, and should be very doubtful of much good being effected where it did not exist. He trusted these discussions would be conducted with good feeling, as at their last general meeting, always remembering that they were brethren, partakers of the same Communion: and concluded with recommending them to show respect for the opinions of those who differed with them, however much they might believe that by their proceedings they were showing them a more excellent way.

Henry Pryor, Esq., was re-appointed Assistant Secretary—but upon his representing that the office would be incompatible with other duties, Mr. Rowley was requested to act in that capacity.

The meeting then proceeded to take up the different Sections of the Report of the Committee. The Hon. Mr. Almon objected that the Report, as published in the *Church Times*, and upon which he had formed his conclusions with reference to the Diocesan Assembly, was not the final report of the Committee—to which it was replied that any alterations made, did not in the least affect the principle of the Constitution, but were only such as the Committee had deemed necessary to make it more explicit and effective, and that each section would be considered and determined separately by the meeting, to which it was open to make any alterations and amendments as they thought advisable. The separate paragraphs were then read, commented upon and passed, with some verbal alterations, down to Sec. 5 of the second part of the report embracing the Constitution and regulations of the Assembly.

Sec. 5, which brought before the meeting the question of the Bishop's veto, underwent considerable discussion, which was conducted throughout in the amicable spirit that became a Body assembled for so important an object. The Hon. M. B. Almon, after an argumentative speech in favor of limiting the Bishop's power in the Assembly, proposed the following amendment:

Resolved—That every measure requiring the concurrence of the three orders, shall, after having passed the two lower be sent to the Bishop for his assent. If negatived it shall be returned to the two orders, and if passed by two-thirds of each order shall then become a law.

The Bishop expressed his desire that the discussion of the question should proceed with reference entirely to the office of Bishop, and not to the individual who filled the chair.

The amendment having been seconded, was opposed by Mr. Gladwin, of Musquodoboit, Mr. Osely, of Sydney, Mr. C. Bowman, of Windsor, and by the Rev. Mr. Bullock, Rev. Mr. Leaver, and other gentlemen,—and was supported by the Rev. Mr. Dunn, Rev. Mr. Yewens, Mr. Fenerty, &c.

His Lordship having asked the Assembly if they had any further observations to make, and regretting the absence of the mover of the Amendment, who had the privilege of replying to those which had been made, proceeded in a luminous speech to sum up the various arguments adduced on both sides—expressing and refuting the objections of the opposers of Synodical government. The authority of the Bishop was inherent in the constitution of Episcopacy, as derived from God, and therefore different from the generally received opinion of the right of kings, and could not be taken away by any action of the Assembly, altho' practically the submission of all his acts to a Synod was a limitation of his power, by making the whole Church the judges of its exercise, and therefore a sufficient guard against any act of despotism. The Bishop alluded to the stress which had been laid upon the practice in the U. States, where in only one diocese the Bishop was allowed the exercise of the veto power as a principle,—but what had been done in that diocese was still continued, and therefore it must be presumed that it was not injurious. But if in the separate Dioceses it was not deemed expedient that the veto power should exist, it would be found that the principle was approached as near as the democratic character of the people would allow, for if only three Bishops met in general Convention, they were to act as a separate order. He acknowledged that difficulty had grown around the subject, but it was that of having to fight a shadow. With many other observations bearing strongly on the subject, which neither space nor time will allow us to transcribe, the Bishop concluded by leaving the subject entirely to the action of the Assembly.

The question being taken on the Amendment, there appeared upon division,

Clergy—For the Amendment

0

Against it

27

Laity—For the Amendment

8

Against it

18

The original Resolution being then put, there appeared—

Clergy—For the Resolution

28

Against it

0

Laity—For the Resolution

20

Against it

1

So the Resolution was carried all but unanimously.

The remaining Sections were then gone through with some material alterations. One of these makes the meetings Biennial. It was also resolved, that the Assembly meet some time after the 20th October of next year. The proceedings were then adjourned until Friday morning at 9 o'clock, and the meeting separated with prayer for the Divine blessing.

The foregoing is a hurried and in many respects a very imperfect description of the proceedings. We shall, however, publish the official report, which will contain the full particulars, next week.

A FORM OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD,

For the Signal and repeated Successes obtained by the Troops of Her Majesty, and by those of Her Allies, in the Crimea; and especially for the Capture of the Town of Sebastopol. To be used at Morning and Evening Service, after the General Thanksgiving, in all Churches and Chapels in the Diocese of Nova Scotia, upon Sunday October 14th, or upon the Sunday after the Ministers of such Churches and Chapels shall respectively receive the same.

O Lord God Almighty, the Disposer of all human events, in whose hand is power and might which none is able to withstand: We, Thine unworthy servants, desire to approach Thy throne with the tribute of praise and thanksgiving. We bless and magnify Thy name for the successes granted to our countrymen, and the armies allied with them, now engaged in a mighty warfare, and defending the rights and independence of nations; and especially for the signal victory by which the stronghold of the enemy has been overthrown. We acknowledge, O Lord, that the wisest counsels, and the strongest arms, without Thee, cannot but fail: for Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the victory, and the majesty; and therefore, not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name, be all praise and glory ascribed.

Continue, we beseech Thee, Thy favour to the allied forces, both by sea and land. Let not the glory of their progress be stained by ambition, or sullied by revenge; but let Thy Holy Spirit support them in danger, control them in victory, and raise them above all temptation to evil. And grant that this and all other successes which have crowned the bravery and rewarded the endurance of our armies, may issue in the return of peace, and the restoration of Christian brotherhood among nations.

Finally, O Lord, we entreat Thee so to dispose and turn our hearts, that Thy mercy, now manifested towards us, may engage us to true thankfulness, and incline us, as a nation, to walk more humbly and devoutly before Thee, by obeying Thy holy word, by reverencing Thy holy day, and by promoting throughout the land the knowledge of Thee, the only true God, and of Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. To whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE R. M. Steamship *Canada* arrived on Tuesday evening last, in 10 days from Liverpool, bringing details of the capture of the South side of Sebastopol, and other intelligence of importance.—It does not however appear that any operations of magnitude have been attempted by the allies since their occupation of the ruined city. A vast quantity of munitions of war, which afford some idea of the Russian resources, have been secured by the allies, notwithstanding the wanton destruction which was made of them when the enemy crossed the harbor. It is but fair to presume that the North side is equally well supplied, in which case if the Russians can keep their communications open through the Crimea, there will be little prospect of the reduction of the country during the coming winter. It is well therefore that the allies have secured good winter quarters. The report of a force being dispatched to Eupatoria may be true, and is likely to be the course adopted, if by that means the Russian centre could be forced, or their communications intercepted. It is however a question if a body of