

help and teaching, that they may "acquaint themselves with God, and be at peace."

It would ill become my responsible position this day to permit the opportunity to pass unimproved of urging you with a Christian's warmth and zeal, to search faithfully your own hearts, and see if you be at peace with God. If you are not,—living in Gospel days,—look to Jesus, and acquaint yourselves with God, through Him; for "being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

If you know God, and are known of Him, let your journey through this world be gladdened and improved by beholding His eternal power and Godhead on every side of your heavenly path, ever feeling the presence of Jesus, "Immanuel"—"God with us," in each advancing step of your pilgrimage, and echoing the sentiment so sweetly sung by the Christian bard.†

"When round thy wondrous below  
My searching rapturous glance I throw,  
Tracing out wisdom, power and love  
In earth or sky, by stream or grove;  
Let not my heart within me burn,  
Except in all I thee discern!"

\* Job xxii. 21. † Rom. vi. 1. ‡ Keble's Evening Hymn.

### Diocesan Assembly.

#### PROPOSED REPORT OF COMMITTEE.\*

The Committee appointed at the Meeting of the Bishops, Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity, assembled at Halifax on the 12th day of October last, to prepare a Constitution upon which the proposed Synodical action of the Diocese of Nova Scotia should be based, have so far proceeded in conformity with their instructions, as to agree upon the following Declaration and Regulations, which they now publish for the information of the members of the Church, preparatory to submitting them for adoption at the meeting of the Assembly to be held in October next:—

#### I. Declaration of Principles.

We, the Bishop and Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland, within the Diocese of Nova Scotia, assembled together and intending, under God's blessing and guidance, to consider and determine upon such matters as shall appear necessary for the welfare of the Church in this Diocese, desire, in the first place, for the avoiding of all misunderstanding and scandal, to make a declaration of the principles upon which we propose to proceed.

We desire that the Church in this Colony may continue, as it has been, an integral portion of the United Church of England and Ireland.

We recognize the true Canon of Holy Scripture, as received by that Church, to be the rule and standard of faith: we acknowledge the Book of Common Prayer and Sacraments, together with the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion, to be the true and faithful declaration of the doctrines contained in Holy Scripture: we maintain the form of Church government by Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, as Scriptural and Apostolical: and we declare our firm and unanimous resolution, in dependence on Divine aid, to preserve those doctrines and that form of Church Government, and to transmit them to our posterity.

In particular we uphold the ancient doctrine of our Church, that the Queen is rightfully possessed of the chief government or supremacy over all persons within her dominions, in all causes whether ecclesiastical or civil; and we desire that such supremacy may continue unimpaired.

It is our earnest wish and determination to confine our deliberations and actions to matters of discipline, to the temporalities of the Church, and to such regulations of order as may tend to her efficiency and extension.

#### I. Constitution and Regulations of Assembly.

1. Periodical Meetings shall be held, composed of the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of this Diocese; their Assembly, constituted as hereafter proposed, shall be called the Diocesan Assembly of Nova Scotia.

Every Clergyman in the Diocese duly licensed by the Bishop shall have a seat in the Assembly, and alone having the right of voting. They shall appear by their representatives.

The quorum of the Assembly shall consist of not less than one-fourth of the whole number of Clergy members respectively, with the Bishop or Secretary presiding.

Business of each order shall be taken separately, and being determined by the majority of those present in each order.

Resolutions shall be binding on the members of this diocese at large which shall not be made without the concurrent assent of the Bishop,

may be had at Wm. Gossp's Book Store, at \$1. per dozen.

the Clergy, and the Laity, and have been passed in the Diocesan Assembly.

6. The Clergy being under the obligation implied in their subscription to the Thirty Nine Articles, as well as the three Articles of the 80th Canon, it is not competent for the Diocesan Assembly to make alterations in those formularies or in the method of interpretation laid down in the Declaration prefixed to the 80 Articles, or in the Book of Common Prayer of the United Church of England and Ireland, or finally in the authorized version of the Holy Scriptures. With these exceptions, the Diocesan Assembly may deliberate and decide by a majority of votes taken as specified in Rule 4, on all matters affecting the interests of the Church of this Diocese.

7. The Representatives of the Laity must have been communicants for the 12 months preceding the Election, and every adult male Parishioner may vote for the Parish or District of which he is a member, upon subscribing the following declaration:—"I do declare that I am a member of the United Church of England and Ireland, and belong to no other religious denomination."

8. Each District forming a separate cure of souls may send 2 lay representatives, and the Parish of St. Paul's in the City of Halifax may send 4, so long as its present area remains undiminished.

9. The meetings of the Assembly shall be Biennial, but the Bishop (or in his absence the Archdeacon,) shall have power to summon additional meetings at his discretion, and an Election of Representatives shall take place at the Easter Meeting preceding each ordinary biennial Meeting of the Assembly.

10. There shall be two Secretaries, one chosen by the Clergy, the other by the Laity, who shall keep regular Minutes of all proceedings of the Assembly.

### Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

DEAR SIR,—Participating in the desire to make provision for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy, and (thankful that the good work has been so auspiciously begun, I would venture to offer some remarks on the "proposed Rules and Regulations", the more especially as the Diocesan Meeting has strangely enough, been appointed to take place at a season when members from a distance cannot hope to be present.

There is one feature of the scheme so objectionable as to deter the writer and all the Clergy with whom he has conversed, from availing themselves of its advantages, viz., the Insurance principle. This seems indeed the great radical defect, out of which so many other defects, perhaps unavoidably, flow.

In the first place it imposes on Clergymen advanced in years a very heavy tax—£6 10 to an old man striving to live honestly on £125 per annum, is a serious thing.

Next, it ties down all who would participate in its benefits to perpetual residence within the Diocese, so that active young men must cease to think of preferment elsewhere; and superannuated old men like the late worthy Dr. Rowland, must forego the pleasure it may be of spending their old age with their children in other lands, or forfeit all the benefits of the Fund. And again, if a Clergyman from ill health or other cause should be obliged to travel or reside abroad for a season, he must not only have the leave of his Bishop, but he must beg permission of the sub-committee also, and there are some of us who are well satisfied with one Bishop, but yet who think one Bishop quite enough.

These seem to the writer to be the principal objections—there are others, but as it may contribute more to the object we all have in view, to propose amendments rather than to dwell on defects, the following Rules are submitted for the consideration of our Brethren in the Ministry, and may be so far altered or amalgamated with the Rules of the Sub-committee, as to render the scheme more generally acceptable.

Rules of the Committee for providing annuities for the Widows and Orphans of deceased Clergymen of the Church of England.

1. The Committee of the D. C. S. entrusted with the care of providing annuities for the Widows and Children of deceased Clergymen, shall be denominated "The Widow's and Orphan's Committee," and shall be composed of five Lay Members of the Church, and of all Clergymen who are or have been ordained Ministers of the Church of England ministering in the Diocese of Nova Scotia, and who shall conform to the rules and contribute to the funds of the Committee.—These funds shall arise out of interest of capital—an

annual contribution of £2 from each clerical member, legacies, donations and collections made by the direction of the Bishop, &c. &c., and the annuitants, whether widows or children, shall receive respectively the largest dividends of the annual produce of the same which a due regard to the stability of the scheme shall warrant.

2. The Affairs of the Committee shall be transacted at annual meetings held in Halifax, at such times as the annual meetings of the D. C. S. take place or of tenor if requisite, fifteen members being necessary to form a quorum. And the Lord Bishop shall be ex officio President, and the Secretary of the D. C. S. Treasurer and Secretary, with an allowance of five per cent. on all monies received and disbursed by him as the Committee shall direct.

3. Every Clergyman ministering in the Diocese shall be invited to become a member of the Committee so soon as duly organized; and each Minister on being ordained, afterwards, or licensed by the Bishop, shall be similarly invited; and on signifying in writing to the Bishop his willingness to conform to its rules, shall be enrolled a member; and no Clergyman once refusing shall be allowed to become a member afterwards.

4. Any clerical member of the Committee who shall contract a second marriage, shall pay to the Treasurer a sum equal to one year's annuity, payable by the Committee at the time such marriage shall take place, —on the third marriage a sum equal to two years annuity, and so on in the same proportion for every succeeding marriage he may contract; and in case of his refusal so to do, he shall cease to be a member of this Committee.

5. Should it be satisfactorily proved to a majority of the members of the Committee convened at any annual meeting, that any marriage had been contracted by a member whilst in a state of sickness, or of debility of mind, or in apprehension of death, with the view of placing a widow on the fund, such widow shall not be enrolled as an annuitant.

6. Should any member of this Committee cease to be an officiating Minister in this Diocese, being superannuated by the Bishop, or by removal to another Diocese, he shall be permitted nevertheless to continue a member, provided his annual subscription be regularly paid within each year, and provided also that the majority of the members present at the general annual meeting be satisfied that he continues such Minister of the Church of England, and has not been guilty of any immorality which in this Diocese would have subjected him to degradation from the ministerial office.

7. Any member of this Committee who shall from immorality or any other cause be degraded from the ministerial office, shall not be permitted to continue a member of the Committee, nor shall his widow or children at his decease receive any annuity from its funds.

8. The subscription of each member shall commence on his being enrolled, and the annuity to his widow shall be payable on each 1st. of Jan'y and 1st. July next following his decease, and shall terminate on the first of Jan'y or July respectively next following her own; and the annuity to the children of a deceased member shall be regulated by the following rules.

9. When a member of the Committee shall die leaving a child or children and no widow, his child or children shall receive the annuity for a period of twelve years after their father's death; and when a widow being an annuitant, shall die before she shall have received her annuity for the full term of twelve years, and shall leave a child or children by a member of the Committee, said child or children shall continue to receive such annuity until the term of 12 full years from the death of their Father shall have been completed, or until the youngest child of deceased member shall have reached the age of 12 years.

Hoping you will excuse the length of this communication, and that it may contribute in however small a degree to the perfecting of a scheme so excellent and so much needed,

I am, &c.

Aug. 29.

CAPE BRETON.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

#### WIDOW AND ORPHAN FUND.

DEAR SIR,—Conversing with several friends of the Church and of our Diocesan Society, on the subject of the above Fund, I have generally found them entertaining fears for its safe working, which fears have in every case yielded to a simple explanation of the details.

Impressed with the importance of this object it has occurred to me that every information should be imparted to the friends of the Church, in order to un-