

## The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JAN. 27. 1855.

## DIOCESAN SYNOD.

The sixty-fifth Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Massachusetts, commenced its session in Trinity Church, Boston, on Wednesday morning the 10th inst. Morning prayer was read by the Rev. Samuel B. Shaw, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Lanesborough,—the ante-communion service was read by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Eastburn, assisted by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Burgess, of the Diocese of Maine;—the sermon was preached by the Rev. Samuel Babcock, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Dedham, from Acts v. 38.—"If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought";—the offertory was read by the Rev. Henry Burroughs, of Boston,—the collection was for the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased clergymen,—the Holy Communion was administered by the Bishop of the Diocese, assisted by Bishop Burgess.

The Convention was called to order by the Bishop—the list of clergymen entitled to seats, was called, and the credentials of lay members, presented. The Rev. J. H. Clinch (an alumnus of King's College, Windsor, and well known in Nova Scotia) was unanimously re-elected Secretary.

By resolution the Bishop of Maine was invited to take a seat in the Convention, and a chair placed for him at the right hand of the President.

The Committee then went into the business for which it was called.

In the afternoon sitting, the Bishop read his annual address, which was a recapitulation of his labours during the past year, embracing ordinations, confirmations, consecration of churches &c., catechising, appointing clergymen, receiving resignations, attending meeting on Church affairs, in and out of his Diocese, &c. &c., being a full history of the progress of the Church since the last meeting of convention. We copy a portion of the Address, which relates an instance of liberality on the part of a zealous Churchman in the Diocese, not for the sake of blazing abroad the good deed and making the name of him who did it conspicuous, but for the good example it affords to those who are rich, to give largely of the substance wherewith the Lord has blessed them, to promote the glory of His name:—

"December 7," says the Bishop, "I had the great gratification of consecrating to the service of Almighty God, St. John's Church, Melville. The occasion was one of great joy to my own heart, and to the hearts of many others. Four years had elapsed, since this beautiful and substantial stone edifice was first opened for public worship; but inasmuch as the debts remaining upon it had not been cancelled, it could not be solemnly dedicated to the Lord. It pleased God, however to put it into the heart of one generous hearted member of the parish, to remove the difficulty out of the way. The person to whom I allude—Edward S. Hall, Esq.,—liquidated the indebtedness; and in addition to this, at his own expense enclosed the church with a strong stone wall, beautified the grounds, and completed the bell turret. The whole cost of the building as thus finished, has been about \$10,000, of which \$6,000 have been contributed by the numerous individual above mentioned. I am well aware that this public record of his Christian liberality will be unwelcome to himself; but I feel constrained nevertheless, by a sense of the beneficial effect of such examples upon others, thus openly to speak of the blessings conferred by him upon the place where he resides, and upon the Diocese of which he is a member. May the Lord reward him by an abundant measure of the peace of God, in his own soul, through humble dependence upon the merits of Christ Jesus; and also by permitting him to witness the results of his bounty in souls converted, and saved through the ministry of the Lord within these walls."

Near the conclusion of his Address, the Bishop adverts to a matter, which has, tho' in a partial degree, commanded the attention of this Diocese,—the great importance of a proper maintenance of the Episcopate—and commends it to the serious attention of the Committee. Here, where the Bishopric Fund has not yet arrived at an amount that will provide a suitable residence for the Bishop of the Diocese, the subject is of great interest also. At a subsequent meeting of the Convention, a report was presented recommending the appointment of a special Committee to raise a fund of not less than \$10,000, to remain on interest until it reached the sum of \$40,000—and the Committee was appointed.

The Convention closed its session on Thursday afternoon with religious exercises; and one of the speakers taking occasion to do so, in a feeling manner, at the close of his remarks, to the domestic afflictions through which their beloved Diocese has been and is now called to pass, at his suggestion, the Convention united in the use of a very appropriate selection from the prayers which the Church has provided for those in affliction. "The Bishop followed with a grateful reference to the sympathy which had been expressed, and the prayers that had been offered. He bore his testimony to the power of the blessed gospel to sustain in all scenes of trial, and took the occasion to urge upon the Clergy with affectionate earnestness, the duty and privilege of preaching that gospel in its simplicity. His remarks were concluded by a few words of earnest counsel to the laity, and after singing and prayer the Convention adjourned."

"This treat," says the record of the proceedings, which we find in the Boston Christian Witness, "was a delightful occurrence; and there is but one expression of gratitude to God for the harmonious character of the Convention, and for this its most appropriate and profitable conclusion."

It may be asked of what service to the Churchmen of Nova Scotia is the record of Synodical proceedings in the United States. Much every way. In the first place for our example. Here is a Diocese, "lengthening its cords and strengthening its stakes," in the midst of a soil which, if there could be conceived one more uncongenial for the growth of a Protestant Episcopal Church, it must be looked for in a Popish or Mahomedan country. This progress against contracting causes may be mainly ascribed to Synodical action, which discussing subjects of interest at a centre of unity, sets every part of the body to accomplish the particular duty assigned to it. And so it would be in Nova Scotia, had we a Synod. The action of such a body would cement the disconnected parts, and lead to uniformity of action in every member. No other institution connected with the Church can do this work effectually, for the reason that the best of them are human contrivances, and do not in like manner adapt themselves to its separate elements. Any and every divergence from it,—whether caused by priestly assumption of supreme authority, or by a desire to give the Church's higher orders a voice in the secular counsels of a country, or by taking advantage of the popular ignorance to uphold a tyranny over the popular will, or by allowing the popular element a superior control, all of which have been tried and found wanting,—is so much imperfection, which destroys harmonious action, and impairs the strength of unity. The principle once recognised that every member of the Church is interested in its government, Synods giving an equal voice to Bishops, clergy and laity, ought to follow us a matter of course; and there is no estate of the Church, but has power and strength within itself, if true to itself, to cause that this principle should be thoroughly understood, and in spite of all the opposition that can be brought against it, maintained and established. We are high neighbours of a State where its working is appreciated, and where they appear to possess it in its purity; and we are just in the condition to profit by their experience, in such a way as shall make both for the temporal and spiritual benefit of our Church,—and we trust the time is not far distant, when the Diocese of Nova Scotia, with the hearty concurrence of all its members, shall meet in Synod—and that Bishops of the American Church, (Massachusetts, Maine and New York, &c.) shall be invited to witness our deliberations, and lend their brotherly assistance in our religious services.

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY

In St. John N. B., in addition to a Young Men's Christian Association, they have recently instituted "a Church of England Young Men's Society," the proceedings at the first annual meeting of which we have given below. Institutions like these, having the sanction of the Church authorities, for the purpose of securing their cooperation, cannot fail to be beneficial, not only to the Church, but to the cause of the Gospel, and we should like to see them widely diffused throughout this Diocese. There is nothing of the kind in Halifax, although perhaps here more than elsewhere, it ought to be expected they would have originated; there is however, plenty of material to bring them into existence, and to carry them on successfully. They might be constituted either parochially or by a union of all. They offer to our young men an opportunity to show their zeal for the Church, and in behalf of their own improvement in the Christian life and fellowship; and we believe, would not fail to illustrate more fully, that the brotherhood of the Church was no idle phrase, but

once in action would bear good fruit not only for the present, but for eternal life. We hope to be able ere long to make mention of a Society of this nature in the City; in the meantime it is with much gratification, we learn, that at Chester there is one in satisfactory operation, that it is accumulating a library, and its meetings are occupied with useful proceedings. This is the only instance that we know of in this Diocese. If there are others we shall be glad to learn the fact, and will rejoice to record it as an example for other parts to go and do likewise.—

"The first Annual Meeting of the Church of England Young Men's Society of this City, was held at the Mechanics' Institute last Tuesday evening. Although the weather was unfavorable, there was a large attendance, and the meeting passed off in the most encouraging and satisfactory manner."

The chair was taken by his Honor Mr. Justice Parker, at 8 o'clock, and the proceedings were commenced by singing the first psalm—the audience joining most heartily in it—and by prayer, offered up by the Rev. John Armstrong. The Chairman then briefly stated the objects of the meeting, and expressed in some very appropriate remarks, the pleasure he felt in promoting them; after which the Rev. Dr. Gray delivered an address, pointing out some of the tendencies of the age, the origin of similar Societies in the sixteenth century, the advantages of them to young men, their parents, employers, and society at large; the duty of all to support and encourage them; and pointing out especially the one now formed amongst us, and the claims it possesses.

"The following resolutions, after being ably supported were then unanimously agreed to:—

"Moved by Dr. LeBaron Botsford; seconded by Mr. J. W. Lawrence—

"1. Resolved, That the Church of England Young Men's Society of St. John, is in the opinion of the meeting entitled to the encouragement and support of Churchmen in this City, as calculated to be highly conducive both to the moral and spiritual improvement of the young men themselves, and to the advancement of the interests of the Church in this Province."

"Moved by the Rev. John Armstrong; and on being seconded—

"2. Resolved, That the remarkable extension of the Zealmen's Kingdom in the world at the present time through the instrumentality of the Church Missionary and other Societies, calls for the adoring gratitude of all Christians, and that this meeting learns with pleasure that it is one of the objects of the Church of England Young Men's Society to obtain and circulate more general information as to the Missionary efforts of the Church, as also to contribute thereto."

"A hymn was then sung with cheering effect by the whole audience, and after a blessing had been pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Gray, the meeting separated. A collection, amounting to £9 10s., was taken up near the close of the proceedings.—Church Witness."

## TREMENDOUS GALE.

On Friday morning Jan. 19, a storm broke over the City—accompanied with extraordinary high tide—which flooded nearly all the wharves and made the approach to them quite dangerous. Some of the small craft lying at the wharves received injury, and one or two were sunk, we understand also, that the water rose into some of the cellars near the wharves, and damaged the merchants' dry goods.

DEADLY CASUALTY WITH THE LOSS OF SIX VALUABLE LIVES.—The Schooner "Success to the Fishermen," Levi W. Ross, master, sailed from the Eastern Passage, Halifax, on Sunday, the 14th inst., about 8 o'clock in the morning, for Sheet Harbour between 12 and 1 o'clock Mr. Boucher, reaching at Taylor's Head, saw the vessel capsize about 3 miles distant, near Jericho's Island, the sea being too rough to render any assistance, and melancholy to relate, as on board perished. Their names are—

Levi W. Ross, master and owner, leaving a widow and four infant children.

Patrick Quillman, seaman, leaving a widow and six children, all poorly provided for.

Alexander R. Diamond, passenger.

Alexander Clark, passenger, a Carpenter belonging to St. Mary's.

Adam Murphy, Blacksmith, passenger, the principal support of a poor widow and several fatherless children.

Mary Murphy, passenger, sister of the above.

All residents of Sheet Harbour, and all suddenly called away in the bloom of life.

SHEET HARBOUR, Jan. 17, 1855.

—Communicated.

The wreck of a vessel, part of stern out of water, was seen off Ketch Harbour on Sunday last. On Tuesday, the foremast of a schooner of about 40 tons with two jibs attached, was picked up at the mouth of the harbour.

The gale was also seriously felt at Liverpool, doing great deal of damage. Several vessels were wrecked in the harbour, and melancholy to relate the crew of one of them—the Rambler, from Fortune Bay, N. Y. with a cargo of herrings—all perished. There were six persons on board, and four bodies had been washed on shore. The new Barque "Wave," belonging to S. Fireman, Esq. of Milton, was driven upon the rocks outside the Bar, in the same gale, and went to pieces.