

W. C. Johnson

Her Foundations are upon the Holy Hills.



Quod Semper, quod
Ubique, quod ab Omnibus
Creditum est teneamus

In necessariis Unitas,
In dubiis Libertas,
In omnibus Caritas.

THE CHURCHMAN'S FRIEND,

FOR THE DIFFUSION OF INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE

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Church News.

CANADA.—The Bishop of Toronto, with the consent of the Governor-General, has summoned the Clergy and Lay-Delegates of the proposed Western Diocese to assemble at London on Wednesday, May 13th, for the purpose of organizing the Diocese and electing its first Bishop. We have already on two occasions written fully on this subject, and exhorted those, who are to bear a part in these most momentous deliberations, to approach them in a spirit of prayer, and in a Christian temper. There are two candidates for the Episcopate;—although this is perhaps hardly the right word to use, inasmuch as they both disclaim the idea of putting themselves forward for the high office, and rather yield to the solicitations of those friends, who consider them well qualified to fill it with honour to themselves, and advantage to the Church. They are the Venerable A. N. Bethune, Archdeacon of York, and the Reverend Dr. Cronyn, Rector of London. The latter has many warm personal friends, and the zeal and activity with which they have been advocating his cause, speak highly for his amiable qualities.

But we, on such an occasion, feel constrained to lay aside all personal considerations, and to take into account nothing but the fitness of the men proposed for our choice, and the claims which they may respectively possess upon the

clergy and laity of the diocese. And in this point of view we cannot conceive how any churchman of sound views and with a warm zeal in behalf of those distinctive principles which are so clearly enunciated in our liturgy and articles, can hesitate between the two.

And irrespectively of this important consideration, the qualifications and the claims of the Archdeacon are, we feel bound to say, immeasurably superior. If thirty-three years laboriously and faithfully devoted to the service of the Canadian Church; if the confidence and friendship of his Bishop, who has placed him in the highest offices which he had to bestow; if the esteem and affection of his parishioners to whom he has so long and so zealously ministered; if the ability he has displayed and the experience he has gained as the Head of an Institution for training theological students; if persuasiveness as a preacher, clearness and distinctness as a writer, judgment and tact as a man of business, moderation and impartiality in the many important matters which have been entrusted to him;—in a word, if fitness for the office, and services rendered to the Church, are to be the ground upon which each vote is given,—we do not fear the result. Of Dr. Cronyn we desire to say nothing but what is kind and respectful, but we cannot discover upon what plea his claims can for a moment come into competition with those of the Archdeacon of York.