

# TO THE PARISHIONERS

OF

St. James's Parish, Toronto.

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MY DEAR BRETHREN,—

It is to be regretted, that, after the unfortunate destruction of the Cathedral of St. James, by fire, last April, measures were not more speedily taken to rebuild a new Church, worthy of this rising city; because the delay and frequent meetings of the Vestry on the subject have produced differences of opinion, and something of irritation.

Now, a want of unanimity in this matter is very much to be deplored; more especially, as all the parishioners have the same object in view, and are equally anxious to do every thing in their power for its accomplishment. Permit me, therefore, to submit a few seasonable words, in the hope of restoring harmony; for till this be done, we shall not be in a position to make the great and united effort necessary to rebuild a church, which may remain through ages a monument to our piety, and an ornament to the city of Toronto.

1. From the first ages, Christians have had places set apart, with prayers and sacerdotal benedictions, for burying their dead, called Dormitories, or sleeping places; for they considered death a sleep till the resurrection. There were, however, no dormitories or burying places within the cities or villages during the first three centuries of the Christian era. In this respect, the Roman law was exceedingly strict, and prohibited the burying in cities to every rank and station whatsoever. Now, as Christians obeyed implicitly the law