

suggests itself to me, is the one practised in Scotland. In that country, it is provided that when a Bishopric becomes vacant, the Synod shall be called together, within fifteen or twenty days, to fill the vacancy. This gives no time for unholy plots or intrigues.

If Christian men, and still more Ministers of the Gospel, assist any person in becoming a bishop who is not the friend of God and of the Church, or from any other motive than that he is, according to their convictions, thoroughly qualified in all respects for the office, and the very best man within their reach, they are guilty of a great crime. Even in civil cases, Jethro, speaking by inspiration, commands Moses not to choose any but able men such as fear God, men of truth, having covetousness. How much more careful ought we to be in choosing overseers of the flock of Christ.

In leaving the Episcopal, I pass to the Sustentation Fund, because they have something of an untoward connexion. Hoping much from the Sustentation Fund in aid of our Commutation, I was eager to begin operations last autumn, but was overruled by many of the best friends of the Church—and persuaded that we could not succeed till the Episcopal Endowment Funds were completed. I confess that I yielded with some repugnance, and the more so because the state of the Kingston Episcopal Fund, unless speedily followed up, may produce a long and inconvenient postponement. But be this as it may, the object must not be relinquished. It is the last great work which, under God's merciful guidance, I seek ardently to promote, and, if spared, I shall seize upon the first promising opportunity to begin the subscription.

In commencing our proceedings on this memorable day, we shall first read the law or charter under which we are now assembled. You will find that it is comprised in two clauses, with a very brief preamble. It passed both Houses of the Provincial Parliament unanimously on the 13th of June, 1856, and, on its transmission to England, it experienced great opposition, and had it not been for the warm and able advocacy of the Hon. John H. Cameron, who happened fortunately to be in London, and the precedent of the Victoria Act, there is great reason to believe that it would have failed. Even then the legal advisers of the Crown continued their opposition, and at length it was referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and, after due considera-