

# THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS SEE PAGE 16.

## DECISIONS REGARDING NEWSPAPERS.

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## CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER.

SEPTEMBER 4.—12th Sunday after Trinity.

" 11.—13th do do do

" 18.—14th do do do

(Notice of St. Matthew and Emberdays; Ember collect to be said daily this week.)

" 20.—Vigil of St. Matthew, *Fast.*

" 21.—ST. MATTHEW, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr,—Athanasian creed—Ember day—*Fast.*

" 23. } EMBER DAYS.—*Fast.*

" 24. }

" 25.—15th Sunday after Trinity.  
(Notice of St. Michael and All Angels).

" 29.—ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.

## THE MOST REV. JOHN MEDLEY, D. D., METROPOLITAN.

We received notice on Friday, the 9th of September, that the Most Rev. John Medley, D. D., the oldest Bishop but one in the Anglican Communion, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Fredericton and the third Metropolitan of Canada, had that morning entered into his rest after a somewhat prolonged illness. The loss to the Church in this Ecclesiastical Province will be specially felt, coming as it does on the eve of the assembling of the important Provincial Council, over which he, in virtue of his Office, would have presided, and wherein his ripe wisdom, scholarly attainments, and gentle yet firm administration will much be missed. For several months past

his Lordship has been confined to his house and for a considerable portion, if not all the time, to his bed, but during the past fortnight appeared to have somewhat regained his strength, and hopes were entertained for his recovery. He suffered a relapse, however, in the early part of last week from which he never rallied.

His Lordship was the son of George Medley, Esq., Grosvenor Place, London; England, and was born on December 19th, 1804. He received his early training in the schools at Bristol, Bewdly, Hammersmith and Cobham, and took his degree at Wadham College, Oxford, in 1826, his name appearing on the class list of honors of that institution. He was ordained to the Diaconate in 1828, and to the Priesthood in 1829. He was appointed Incumbent of St. John's Church, Truro, in 1831, and Vicar of St. Thomas' Exeter, and Prebendary of the Cathedral in 1838. Upon the separation of the present Diocese of Fredericton from that of Nova Scotia, (of which it formed part) in 1845, Dr. Medley was nominated by Lord Stanley as its first Bishop, and was consecrated in Lambeth Chapel, London, England, on Ascension Day, 1845, by the then Archbishop, His Grace Dr. Howley. He was installed in Christ Church, Fredericton, as Bishop of the diocese on the 11th of June of the same year, being the feast of St. Barnabas.

It is impossible to estimate the value of Dr. Medley's work to the Church at large as well as to his own diocese during his long Episcopate of 47 years; but undoubtedly, as has been well said by another, "he has laid broad and deep the foundations of the Church of England in the Province of New Brunswick; he has ever aimed to advance the Church as a whole and to that end has not occupied himself with the petty and often superficial activities of life, but, temperate in all things, has done regularly without wasting either physical or moral power a vast amount of good work which will remain." His sound Churchmanship, his undoubted ability as a preacher, his exceptional liberality, his simplicity in life and his more than ordinary powers of administration are well known and must produce effects beneficial to the Church long after he himself has passed away. He has left too an enduring monument behind him in the beautiful Cathedral which has been erected in Fredericton, the first stone of which was laid on the 15th of October, 1846, by Sir William Colebrook, and which his Lordship carried through to completion notwithstanding many and exceeding difficulties, it not being finished and consecrated until 1853.

In June, 1845, the Bishop found but thirty clergy at work in his diocese and many parishes unsupplied; a few years before there having been no less than fifty-seven parishes without a resident minister. Many places he found entirely destitute of the Ordinances of the Church, and a year or two after his appointment he wrote to the S. P. G. Society that after filling up twelve vacancies he still could find full employment for twenty additional clergymen without diminishing the labors of any one at present in Holy Orders. In many cases he found people without Bibles and books of Devotion and set himself earnestly and with unflagging zeal to extend the benefits of the Church throughout his extended diocese. In 1877, his Lordship proposed to his Synod the appointment of a Co-Adjutor Bishop in order

that the diocese might not suffer through his advancing years; and later, the proposal having been accepted, he nominated the Rev. Hollingworth Tully Kingdon, then Vicar of Good Easter, in Essex, England, as Co-Adjutor Bishop, and his nomination having been confirmed by the Synod, Dr. Kingdon was on July the 10th, 1881, consecrated to the office with right of succession, the benefit of which arrangement will now be felt in the absence of any distinct break in the Episcopal Ministrations and also in avoiding, what is not always, the seemly proceeding of electing a Bishop after a vacancy has occurred.

In 1879, after the resignation of the Most Rev. Ashton Oxenden, D. D. Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan, (the Canon as to succession having been altered) Dr. Medley was elected by the House of Bishops as its President and became, in virtue of his office, Metropolitan of Canada, and has most worthily and acceptably, and to the benefit and honor of the Church, ably fulfilled the important duties of that high office.

To recount in any adequate degree the progress made by the Church in the Diocese of Fredericton under good Bishop Medley's Episcopate, to voice in any measure the deep respect and veneration felt for his Lordship by all classes, and to indicate in any degree his high qualities, attainments and labours, requires an abler pen than that of the writer. We can but express our own sense of the extreme loss which the Church in Canadas has suffered through the removal of a leader so learned, wise and experienced, and respectfully extend to Mrs. Medley and the members of his family our sincere sympathy. Ripe in years and full of honors, leaving behind him an imperishable and noble record, he has entered into the rest that remaineth for the people of God. We mourn not for him, but for the Church deprived of his leadership; we rejoice in the confident hope that having fought a good fight, having kept the Faith, having proved himself a true Shepherd of the Flock of Christ on earth, he "when the Chief Shepherd shall appear may receive the never fading Crown of Glory," referred to at his consecration to the office of a Bishop in the Church of God.

On learning of the decease of the Metropolitan the Rector of Montreal (the Rev. Dr. Norton) caused the Cathedral bell to be tolled, and the Cathedral flag to be hoisted at half mast.

## THE AUTHORITY OF GENERAL COUNCILS.

The average layman may be tempted to consider the question of the authority of General Councils of the Church to be a matter which does not directly concern him. He may very likely think "This is a parson's question. I will leave it to theologians and learned authorities in Church law." But there are no Church questions which are *exclusively* parson's questions.

The Church does not exist for the Clergy alone, but for the Laity as well. The true ideal of the Catholic Church is a spiritual democracy ruled by constitutional and orderly methods. Therefore we may dismiss at once the idea that the question of the authority of Church Councils is not a layman's question. The question of the authority of the xxxix Articles of Religion