

In this Province, such as oats, potatoes, butcher's meat, butter, &c. is, undoubtedly, that farmers have neglected their farms, and spent their time and energies in lumbering and trading, and their sons, and those who before did the farm labour, have gone to the town to become shop-keepers, shipbuilders, or millmen.

To such an extent has this been the case, that during the last two years, scarcely a bushel of oats, a carcass of beef, or a skin of butter, of the produce of the Province, has been to be had, while ships and deals are now unsaleable in the English markets.

We suppose that some such preference for trading and manufacturing, to farming, in other countries, has contributed, more or less, to produce a similar state of things. But that as it may, we observe that in Europe it is considered that the crops of last year, will be consumed by the time of next harvest, and in the United States, there will certainly be no surplus this summer for export. Already in the large cities on the seaboard, such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, they begin to apprehend that the interior will barely afford sufficient for their own consumption, and hence flour and pork have now attained what may be considered famine prices.

In the face of such a formidable danger, the duty of all men in this Province, who have an opportunity of doing so, is to sow and plant in every available spot and by every available means. Labor, which at present has no prospect of being made profitable in any other pursuit, if laid out judiciously in farming, will not only avert the threatened scarcity, but in all probability will afford a better chance for profit than in any other way it can be expended.

We see that it is the deliberate opinion of all well-informed writers on food statistics, that as there will be no surplus this year of former crops, famine will only be averted over the world, by universal good crops for this season, and that low or even average prices cannot be expected until after a succession of good crops.

We trust, therefore, that our farmers will consider that this is more than a mere question of profit and money,—it is one of life and well-being to all mankind.—*St. John's Courier.*

DUTIES.—The amount of Import Duties received at this port during the first four months of the present fiscal year, viz.—from 1st December, 1854, to 1st April, 1855, was £20,352 17s. 3d., and for the corresponding period of the previous year £18,821 19s. 3d.—showing an increase on this year, over last, of £1530 18s. This is accounted for by the large amount of duties paid on liquors, &c. in March last, in anticipation of the increased duty coming into operation. If this had not been the case, the Import Duties would show a decrease of several thousand pounds on the first four months of the present year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The amount of Export Duties received for the same period, this year, is £2,263 7s. 2d., and for last year £2,769 5s. 8d.—showing a decrease on this year, as far as we have gone, of £495 18s. 6d. This might be expected from the present state of affairs in Europe.

Editorial Miscellany.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY.

PROPOSED REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

THE Committee appointed at the Meeting of the Bishop, Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity, assembled at Halifax on the 12th day of October last, to prepare a Constitution upon which the proposed Synodical action of the Diocese of Nova Scotia should be based, have so far proceeded in conformity with their instructions, as to agree upon the following Declaration and Regulations, which they now publish for the information of the members of the Church, preparatory to submitting them for adoption at the meeting of the Assembly to be held in October next:—

I. Declaration of Principles.

We, the Bishop and Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland, within the Diocese of Nova Scotia, assembled together and intending, under God's blessing and guidance, to consider and determine upon such matters as shall appear necessary for the welfare of the Church in this Diocese, desire, in the first place, for the avoiding of all misunderstanding and scandal, to make a declaration of the principles upon which we purpose to proceed.

We desire that the Church in this Colony may continue, as it has been, an integral portion of the United Church of England and Ireland.

We recognize the true Canon of Holy Scripture, as received by that Church, to be the rule and standard of faith: we acknowledge the Book of Common Prayer and Sacraments, together with the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion, to be the true and faithful declaration of the doctrines contained in Holy Scripture: we maintain the form of Church government by Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, as Scriptural and Apostolical: and we declare our firm and unanimous resolution, in dependence on Divine aid, to preserve those doctrines and that form of Church

Government, and to transmit them to our posterity.

In particular we uphold the ancient doctrine of our Church, that the Queen is rightfully possessed of the chief government or supremacy over all persons within her dominions, in all causes whether ecclesiastical or civil; and we desire that such supremacy may continue unimpaired.

It is our earnest wish and determination to confine our deliberations and actions to matters of discipline, to the temporalities of the Church, and to such regulations of order as may tend to her efficiency and extension.

II. Constitution and Regulations of Assembly.

1. Periodical Meetings shall be held, composed of the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of this Diocese; and their Assembly, constituted as hereafter provided, shall be called the Diocesan Assembly of Nova Scotia.

2. Every Clergyman in the Diocese duly licensed by the Bishop shall have a seat in the Assembly, Presbyters alone having the right of voting. The Laity shall appear by their representatives.

3. A quorum of the Assembly shall consist of not less than one-fourth of the whole number of Clergy and Lay Members respectively, with the Bishop or his Commissary presiding.

4. The vote of each order shall be taken separately, such vote being determined by the majority of the members present in each order.

5. No rule shall be binding on the members of the Church of this diocese at large which shall not have received the concurrent assent of the Bishop, the Clergy, and the Laity, and have been passed in the Diocesan Assembly.

6. The Clergy being under the obligation implied in their subscription to the Thirty Nine Articles, as well as the three Articles of the 36th Canon, it is not competent for the Diocesan Assembly to make alterations in those formularies or in the method of interpretation laid down in the Declaration prefixed to the 39 Articles, or in the Book of Common Prayer of the United Church of England and Ireland, or finally in the authorised version of the Holy Scriptures. With these exceptions, the Diocesan Assembly may deliberate and decide by a majority of votes taken as specified in Rule 4 on all matters affecting the interests of the Church in this Diocese.

7. The Representatives of the Laity must have been communicants for the 12 months preceding the Election, and every adult male Parishioner may vote for the Parish or District of which he is a member, upon subscribing the following declaration:—"I do declare that I am a member of the United Church of England and Ireland, and belong to no other religious denomination."

8. Each district forming a separate cure of souls, may send 2 lay representatives, and the Parish of St. Paul's in the City of Halifax may send 4, so long as its present area remains undiminished.

9. The meetings of the Assembly shall be Biennial, but the Bishop (or in his absence the Archdeacon) shall have power to summon additional meetings at his discretion, and an Election of Representatives shall take place at the Easter Meeting preceding each ordinary biennial Meeting of the Assembly.

10. There shall be two Secretaries, one chosen by the Clergy, the other by the Laity, who shall keep regular Minutes of all proceedings of the Assembly.

An adjourned Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioners of St. Paul's, was held in the National School, on Wednesday last. There were present about twenty persons. The subject of the repair of the Parsonage and Church was taken up, and a long consideration as to the best plan to be adopted with reference thereto, was given. The meeting did not come to any definite conclusion—but it was generally understood, that the Rector would, upon consideration that his present income from the glebe should be secured, relinquish its management to the Churchwardens and Vestry, or to a Committee to be appointed at a Parish Meeting, conditionally that the Rectory should be immediately repaired, and next, that the surplus proceeds should be held for the benefit of the Rector's successor. The Meeting adjourned to that day week.

The British and Foreign Bible Society held their Annual Meeting at the Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening last. There was a good attendance, ladies, as usual in all our religious meetings, being largely predominant. A number of Clergymen of various persuasions were on the platform.—Wm. Pryor, Jr. Esq. was in the Chair. The Secretary read an interesting Report of the proceedings of the Nova Scotia Auxiliary, from which it appeared that there would be from all sources, including a Ladies Association, which had recently been formed,

a surplus of over £200. Interesting speeches were made by the Clergy and others present, and the proceedings terminated about eleven o'clock.

PROCLAMATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN GASPARD LE MARCHANT,

Knight, Commander of the Orders of Saint Ferdinand, and of Charles the Third of Spain. Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief (L.G.) in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, Chancellor of the same, &c. &c. &c.

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

Taking into my most serious consideration the just and necessary War in which Her Majesty is engaged, and trusting that Almighty God will graciously bless our Armies both by sea and land, have resolved to recommend, and do, by and with the advice of my Council, recommend, to all Her Majesty's subjects in this Province, that a Public Day of Solemn Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, be observed throughout this Province, on Friday, the Eleventh day of May, that so we may humble ourselves before Almighty God, in order to obtain pardon of our sins, and in the most devout and solemn manner send up our prayers and supplications to the Divine Majesty for imploring his blessing and assistance on our arms, and for the restoration of peace to Her Majesty's Dominions. The Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, as hath been usual on former similar occasions, will compose a form of prayer, which he may consider suitable to this occasion, to be used in the Church over which he presides.

Given under my hand and Seal at Arms, at Halifax, this twenty-eighth day of April, A. D. 1855, and in the Eighteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's command,

LEWIS M. WILKINS.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

The Country is agitated throughout with preparations for the coming election. The Liberal party in Halifax have nominated Messrs John Esson and John Tovin, the latter a Roman Catholic, for the County, and Messrs B. Wier and W. Annand for the Township. The Conservatives have as yet come to no public decision. In Colchester Messrs. P. Archibald and George Reading are opposed to Messrs. A. Archibald and McLellan, the late Members; and Mr. Hyde, the Stage Proprietor, opposes Mr. Creelman, the Financial Secretary.—Jno. Wier, Esq. is also a candidate on the Conservative interest for the Northern District of Colchester. The Hon. Attorney General has published a strong party address to the people of Inverness, the County he represented in the last Assembly. Mr. Fulton, the late Member for Cumberland, has come to town, it is said, to propose to his party a compromise with his opponents, which is, that Dr. Tupper, Conservative, and himself, should stand for the County, while Mr. Howe should contest the representation of the Township with Mr. Bent. There is to be a contest in Annapolis County, Mr. S. Chipman against the Hon. J. W. Johnston, who has had a requisition presented to him signed by 2000 persons. Opposition is talked of in Lunenburg, both to the County and Township Members, but we see nothing positive from that part. It is said that the Conservative Members of Pictou will be returned without opposition. There is much talk about other Counties and Townships, but nothing worthy of dependence. Other returns will probably average the political complexion of the last house.

A murder has been committed near the Nine Mile House, Sackville, in a place of entertainment kept by one Denis O'Brien. A man named Drinn, entered the house with a pistol, which O'Brien induced him to give up. Suspecting a colored man to have robbed him of a handkerchief, Drinn demanded the pistol, which he loaded with the intention of being revenged, and in his endeavour to shoot the colored man, he shot O'Brien in the arm, the ball passing through the back of his wife Mrs. O'Brien died on Wednesday morning. Drinn is in custody.

ECLIPSE OF THE MOON.—There was a total eclipse of the Moon on Tuesday night, about ten o'clock. The face of the planet was completely overshadowed. It was a beautiful sight, leading to a contemplation of the unerring wisdom of that wonderful system which is sustained by the will of the Eternal; and of the mind of man, upon which He has bestowed a comprehensiveness that in the most unlearned begets wonder and fear at natural phenomena, and in the educated or those within reach of the conclusions of science, an admiration and awe—in either case confession of the innate knowledge of Almighty power and wisdom.

On Monday, the 16th instant, the Lord Bishop held Confirmations in the Church of Pictou and Warwick Parishes. In the former (Pictou) twenty-four, and in the latter (Warwick) twenty-one were presented and confirmed. The Services were well attended, and the devout demeanor of the Candidates was a subject of general remark.—*Dominion Day, Gaz., April 2.*