

CHARGE TO THE CLERGY.

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN:

BEING permitted by the mercy of God to address you once more on a triennial visitation, it is my pleasure as well as my duty to speak to you as one who is "Saved by Hope." It would be idle to attempt to conceal from you our difficulties, but it is on every account desirable to take the most hopeful view of our position. If we were a very rich Church, in times of great worldly prosperity, I could not have the same hope. Or, if we were striving to make the Church a clerical club, from which the laity were rigidly excluded, to the support of which they contributed neither money, nor influence, nor time, nor diligence, nor patience, nor prayer, I should have but little hope; or if we were so misguided as to throw all our weight into the upholding one political party, I should have less hope. For the Church was never founded by a party in the State. It never t'rove on politics, and it was never in a less hopeful condition than when its richest benefices were the ill-earned reward of active and unscrupulous political partizans. My hope for the Church in Canada, of which we are members and ministers, is not that we are so numerous as to control the State; nor that we are so rich as to dispense with the contributions of our members; but that, being (as without arrogance we may consider ourselves) a branch of that Church which came to us from the ages past, which no storms of persecution have destroyed, and none of the manifold changes of the world have shaken, we still hope to hand down to our children the truth of God which is indestructible; and though comparatively poor, we labor to make many rich, "content with such things as we have," and seeking the good will and the assistance of all our Brethren. It is hopeful, therefore, to look back fifty years, and see what the resources of the Church were then and what they are now; what the number of our communicants was then and what they are now; what the contributions of the laity were then and what they are now; what the number of our clergy and the frequency of our services was then and what they are now; what the appearance of our Church was then and what it is now. It