

BISHOPSTHORPE, York, Aug. 31, 1864.

MR DEAR SIR—I cannot affect to be at all surprised at the contents of your letter just received. It is not necessary for me now to enter upon a discussion of the question alluded to in your letter. But, as far as by law I may, I accept of your resignation of the preferments you hold in the diocese of York.

You are aware, however, that in order to give full legal effect to your intentions, a formal resignation should be made before myself in person, or before a notary public.

With every feeling of personal respect and esteem, I remain, dear sir, your faithful servant,
T. EVON.

To the Rev. R. J. Wilberforce.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOCIETY.

The stated Annual Meeting of the General Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church Society, takes place in Edinburgh on the 27th inst., at twelve o'clock. There will previously be morning prayer in St. John's Chapel, at half-past ten o'clock, at which an Offertory will be made in aid of the funds of the Society.

The following comprises the principal business to be transacted at this meeting:—

1. Report by the Special Committee, appointed on 18th September 1863, to consider whether, consistently with the objects of the Society, and with due regard to the safety of its funds, the capital of the Society, or a portion of it, can be made available for advances on loan to congregations and parties desirous of borrowing money for the purpose of building Churches, Parsonages, or Schools, or whether the Society should not offer to make a grant of (say) £2000 to each diocese, for permanent church endowments, conditionally upon each diocese contributing a like amount. The report is as follows:—

"The committee, having considered both the motions referred to them by the general committee, were unanimously of opinion that in the present position of the church, and also, looking to the circumstance that Mr. Stirling's resolution does not infer any alteration in the fundamental rules of the Society, it would be expedient to adopt his proposal, subject to the limitations and conditions after mentioned, as the basis of its operation.

"It appears to them that the plan of advancing money on loan, to assist in building churches, parsonages, or schools, is not only consistent with the objects of the Society, but that, if proper regulations are made, there should be no risk of loss, while it would be productive of great advantage to congregations labouring under pecuniary difficulties. From the state of the funds, they are satisfied that, unless this or some similar plan is adopted, there is little prospect of the Society being able to afford much assistance to any building schemes; and that the great majority of such applications must therefore be rejected, however urgent.

"The committee would further call attention to the fact, that congregations desirous of borrowing money find it very difficult to obtain loans, subject to the condition of being repaid by periodical instalments; as this rarely suits the convenience or interests of lenders, while it is frequently the mode in which many congregations can do most for the church. Many may be unable to pay a large sum at once, who by means of annual subscriptions and collections, might easily pay off any moderate loan, in a term of years. The committee have not overlooked the risk which may be incurred by

granting such loans, and will merely observe, that it is a well-known fact that a large amount of money is lent by banks and other public bodies, on personal security, and that a loss scarcely ever arises in such transactions. They do not therefore see, if the affairs of the Society are conducted with ordinary prudence, that any loss should be incurred if good personal security is taken.

"With these observations, the committee beg to suggest that loans to the extent of £5000 should be made, from the capital of the Society, for the purpose of aiding in the building of churches, parsonages, schools, and teachers' houses, subject to the following regulations, which are not to be altered without the sanction of a meeting of the general committee of the Society to such alterations, of which due notice must be given:—

"1. That the said sum of £5000 shall be placed at the disposal of the Finance Committee of the Society, whose special duty it shall be to consider and dispose of the applications for loans for the above purposes—to see that proper security be taken—and to fix in what form, and in whose favour, the obligations shall be granted.

"2. The Finance Committee are not to assist any congregation established subsequent to September 1863, without the sanction of the general committee at their annual meeting in September.

3. All buildings towards which assistance is given must be secured to the church by deeds to be approved of by the finance committee; and the Bishop of the diocese in which they are situated must be *ex officio* one of the trustees.

"4. In no case shall the loan exceed one-third of the total cost of the building, nor shall any loan for a church exceed £500—for a Parsonage, £250—or for a school or teacher's house, £250.

"5. At least three good personal securities, to be bound conjunctly and severally (none of them being clergymen), must be given for payment of the annual instalments, and in the event of the death, bankruptcy, or removal from Scotland of any one or more of them, it shall be in the power of the finance committee, if they see cause, to call on the remaining securities to pay up a proportion of the loan, or find additional security.

"6. That if the loan is to be repaid in seven years, the instalments shall be such as to repay it with three per cent. interest; if in ten years, with four; and no loan shall be made for longer than the latter period, and the committee shall have no power to alter or delay the date of payment of any of the instalments.

"7. The finance committee shall have power from time to time to make such regulations as they shall see proper, as to the form in which the applications for loans shall be made, and they shall issue Schedules of Queries, to be filled up by the applicants, and no application shall be taken into consideration by the committee, until such schedules are filled up.

"8. All applications for loans must, in the first instance, be submitted to the Diocesan Association, or a sub-committee of the same, appointed by the Bishop, which shall transmit them to the Building Committee of the Society, accompanied by plans and estimates, and Schedules of queries with answers—with a special report as to the desirableness of the application; and no application shall be forwarded to the Building Committee, until it has also received the sanction and approval of the Bishop of the diocese. The Building Committee shall then report the whole to the finance committee.

"By following out these regulations, the committee are of opinion that while much bene-

fit may arise to many congregations and to the church, from the assistance so proposed to be given, without any risk to the funds of the Society, it is evident that by a temporary advance of £5000, buildings to the extent of £15,000 will be secured permanently to the Church; and that as the instalments come to be gradually repaid, and again lent out to other applicants, a further and continued threefold increase, corresponding to such new loans, will arise to the Church. If, after a short trial, the scheme should be found to operate in the favourable manner which the committee anticipate, it will remain for the Society to consider whether a further portion of its capital should not afterwards be placed at the disposal of the finance committee for the above purposes."

NEW BISHOPRIC IN AUSTRALIA.—The consent of Sir George Grey, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been obtained for the erection of a bishopric for Western Australia, the seat of which shall be at Perth. The Bishop of Adelaide, who has issued an appeal on behalf of the new see, states that since the time when an Episcopacy for Australia was determined upon, Western Australia has been declared a penal colony, and that more than 2,000 convicts have already been transported thither. The number of clergy already officiating in various is nine. Two more are immediately wanted, one for the convict depot at Fremantle, and the other for the district of Vasse. At the expiration of their expiration of their penal probation, the exiles settle in different parts of the colony, and villages have been formed of military pensioners. From Albany, at King George's Sound, to Champion Bay on the north-west there is a coast line of more than 500 miles, along which there are various settlements, and Cape Lewin is to be doubled, while in the interior, along the whole course of the Avon and the Swan, there are townships of settlers or convict depots. From Port Adelaide, in South Australia, to Champion Bay, the distance by sea is 1,500 miles. As it is impossible for one bishop properly to superintend the ecclesiastical and spiritual concerns of two colonies so distant and so extensive, the new see of Perth is to be founded. The society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts has appropriated, out of its Jubilee fund, £3000 towards the endowment of the see, and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge will make a liberal grant for the same purpose.

Iowa.—A majority of the Bishops and Standing Committees having consented to the consecration of the Rev. Henry W. Lee, D.D., Bishop elect of this Diocese, it will take place, by appointment of the Presiding Bishop, in St. Luke's Church, Rochester, W. N. Y., on Wednesday next, 18th instant.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED TO OCT. 16.

Rev. J. H., Mountain; R. B., Toronto; Rev. R. A. C., Quebec; Hon. J. S., Quebec (Vols. 1 & 2); J. H. L. W., Cobourg; W. Y. P., Oakville; Rev. J. R. T., Millford; Rev. J. A. M., Fredericksburgh; Rev. T. A. S., Douglastown, Gaspe Bay (Vols. 1 & 2); Rev. S. G., Credit; Rev. J. S., Elora; Rev. J. F., Richmond (Vol. 1 & 2); Rev. J. G., Belleville; Dr. R., do.

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