

REGULATIONS FOR THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CLERGY.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, it is expedient to define the mode in which the power of the Bishop shall be exercised: We, the Bishop, Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity of the Diocese of Nova Scotia, have agreed upon the following Rules, to be observed in order to secure a fair and impartial tribunal for the trial of any Clergyman who may hereafter be charged with any offence rendering him liable to Ecclesiastical censure.

I.—Whenever the Bishop may determine to institute proceedings against any Clerk in Holy Orders, who may be charged with any offence against the Laws Ecclesiastical, or concerning whom there may exist scandal or evil report, he shall issue a commission under his hand and seal to five Presbyters of not less than seven years standing, and the Commissioners so appointed, or any three of them, shall enquire into the truth of the charges alleged against the party accused, as set forth in their commission, notice of the time and place of such enquiry having been given to the party accused, and to the party, if any, upon whose application or complaint the commission may have been issued, not less than thirty days before the time appointed for the commencement of the enquiry.

And, in the course of such enquiry, the Commissioners shall receive all such evidence as may be tendered to them, whether for or against the party accused.

And the said Commissioners shall report in writing, under the hands of at least three of them, whether in the opinion of the majority of those present, there be or be not sufficient *prima facie* ground for instituting further proceedings; which report shall be accompanied by a copy of the evidence on which it is founded.

II. And in all cases when the Commissioners shall have reported that there is *prima facie* ground for further proceedings, the Bishop, with the written consent of the party

accused, may
ceedings.

III. If the
prima facie ground
accused shall not
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IV. Notice
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