

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

THE BISHOP OF NATAL.—The Rev. Dr. Colenso, the newly appointed Bishop of Natal, intends making an extensive visitation of his diocese, and will return to England in the course of next summer, to inform the church at home of the requirements of the see of which he is to have the episcopal supervision. He intends paying a visit to all the Zulu chiefs, in order to ascertain from them what are the probabilities of his being enabled to civilise and Christianise them. They have made repeated overtures to the Bishop of Cape Town to send missionaries amongst them, assuring him that they would be well received, and aided, to the best of their ability, in the prosecution of their work; but his lordship was unable to comply with their request, except to a very limited extent. Dr. Armstrong, the new Bishop of Graham's Town, intends, after making due provision for the church already planted in the colony, to direct his attention to the religious instruction of the Kaffirs, who have long been a most lawless and rebellious race, and who were recently subjugated by the force of British arms. Both the new Bishops are men of great learning and energy. Dr. Colenso was a fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and the senior wrangler of his year; and Dr. Armstrong was a distinguished member of Lincoln College, Oxford. Both have also had great experience as parish priests, Dr. Colenso having been rector of Forncett St. Mary, Norfolk, and Dr. Armstrong vicar of Tidenham, Gloucestershire, prior to their nomination to the respective dioceses of Natal and Graham's Town, which they are now about to fill.—*D. Warder.*

DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

CHURCH CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

Abridged from the Quebec Mercury.

The Diocesan Assembly met at the National School House, Quebec, on Thursday, the 12th of Jan., according to the request of the Bishop's Circular, dated 31st Oct. The chair was taken by the Lord Bishop at 10 o'clock, a. m., and the proceedings of the meeting were commenced with prayer by His Lordship.

The Rev. Official Mackie, at the Bishop's request, then read the names of the Clergy, and of such Lay Delegates as had been returned as elected by the respective congregations throughout the Diocese.

The list is given below.

The Rev. J. Butler, and S. Armstrong, Esq., were unanimously appointed the Clerical and Lay Secretaries of this meeting, both of whom accepted the appointment.

The Bishop, in a short speech, set forth the reasons, why he had called this meeting together; and hoped the consultations on which they were now about to enter would be such, under the Divine blessing, as to promote the advancement of Christ's kingdom on earth.

A protest was then handed in, containing a statement of reasons against the appointment which had been made of one of the Lay Delegates sent from the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, Quebec; which protest having been read, was referred to the committee already appointed to consider such cases.

The first resolution was then moved by the Rev. S. S. Wood, M. A., and seconded by the Hon. W. Sheppard, as follows:

1. That a petition be presented to Her Majesty the Queen, and the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament, praying for the passage of such a measure as shall remove all doubts as to the legal-

ity of the holding Diocesan and Provincial Synods in the colonies of the British Empire. Such application to have reference merely to a measure permitting the holding of such Synods, and leaving it to the respective Synods to adopt such Rules and Canons as they may think proper, provided that the same be not repugnant to the laws of the Colonial Legislatures, or the Articles and Liturgy of the United Church of England and Ireland.

The Rev. Mr. Balfour adduced from Ecclesiastical History reasons in favour of benefitting by the counsels of the laity, in the furtherance of such objects as those for which the meeting had been convened.

The Rev. Mr. Stewart suggested that it would be unwise to apply to the Imperial Parliament for liberty to hold Synods.

Mr. Scott moved, as an amendment, seconded by Rev. Mr. Stewart:

"That the resolution finish with the word 'Empire,' at the end of the third line in the printed copy of the first resolution."

The Bishop remarked on the great importance of the amendment, and begged the meeting to consider fully before coming to a decision.

Rev. Principal Nicolls moved, and the Rev. Mr. Torrance seconded, as another amendment:

"That in the second sentence of the printed resolution the word 'permitting,' be struck out and the word 'legalizing,' substituted."

Mr. Scott opposed this second amendment.

The Bishop again expressed his opinion in favour of retaining the concluding words of the original motion.

Rev. Mr. Nicolls begged, with the concurrence of his seconder, to change, in his amendment, the word 'legalizing' into the words, 'removing all doubts as to the legality of.'

Mr. Sheriff Ogden asked "whether the effect of our obtaining the boon here petitioned for, would be to remove us from being still in the province of Canterbury?"

The Bishop replied that such would not be the effect.

The first resolution, after further discussion, was put and carried in the following shape—

1. That a petition be presented to Her Majesty, the Queen, and the two Houses of Parliament, praying for the passage of such a measure as shall remove all doubts as to the legality of the holding of Diocesan and Provincial Synods, in the Colonies of the British Empire, and shall leave it to the respective Synods to adopt such Rules and Canons as they may think proper, provided that the same be not repugnant to the laws of the Colonial Legislatures, or the Articles and Liturgy of the United Church of England and Ireland.

The Rev. L. Doolittle proposed, and Mr. Rockingham seconded, the next resolution—

2. That a petition be presented to the provincial Legislature, praying for the passage of a Bill to give legal effect to the action of such Synods, so far as the members of the Church of England in this province are concerned: and

That the Diocesan Assemblies in the Dioceses of Montreal and Toronto be requested to concur in this petition.

Mr. Ogden opposed the motion on the ground of the mixed religious character of the Provincial Legislature.

After some further debating the motion was carried.

Rev. Mr. Balfour, in a speech of considerable length, proposed the third of the printed resolutions, which was seconded by H. N. Jones, Esq. and unanimously carried:

3. That the secularization of the Clergy Reserves would be an act of gross injustice.

Rev. E. C. Parkin moved, and Mr. Armstrong seconded, the fourth of the printed resolutions:

4. That whereas the present Common School Law confers exclusive privileges upon one religious body, it is but just that all should be placed upon an equal footing.

That such alterations, therefore, are needed in the existing Law, as will both enable the Church of England, or any other religious body, to form schools where it is so desired, similar to those which are now recognized as 'Dissentient,' and also exempt Protestants from the payment of taxes for Education, where they do not in any measure benefit by those taxes.

An amendment offered by the Rev. J. Nicolls was carried, to insert after the word, "body," the words "acting singly or unitedly."

Resolution the fifth on the printed list, was moved by the Rev. Dr. Falloon, and seconded by Lieut-Col Wolff; as follows:

5. That the Church of England in this Province labours under a heavy grievance in being debarred from the right of issuing Marriage Licenses by its own Bishops to its own people, while the privilege is enjoyed in full by the corresponding Authorities of the Church of Rome.

That the Laws respecting Marriage in this Province are perniciously loose and imperfect, and

That these evils cry aloud for immediate relief and remedy.

Rev. Mr. Haensel rose to ask for information of facts warranting the use of the words "perniciously loose and imperfect," in the second clause of the resolution.

Rev. Mr. King adduced an instance, which Mr. Scott in reply, said was an abuse of the law, and not a proof of its being "loose and imperfect" in itself.

Mr. Sheriff Ogden also objected to the words to which the Rev. Mr. Haensel had taken exception.

Rev. Dr. Mackie proposed, and Capt. Cox seconded the proposition, that the first clause of the resolution be put by itself.

This clause having been put by the Bishop. Rev. A. W. Mountain objected to the word "debarred" in the first clause, as a concession not called for.

The Bishop explained that, in fact, if not legally, he was "debarred" from issuing licenses.

Rev. Dr. Mackie showed that the want of the power to administer oaths does practically debar the Bishop from issuing such licenses.

Rev. L. Doolittle opposed the notion that the Bishop is legally "debarred" from licensing.

Rev. Dr. Mackie alluded to the fact, that the Australian Bishops issue marriage licenses.

The Bishop explained that the cases are not parallel.

Hon. Mr. Walker showed that the fact, that the proceeds of the sale of Marriage licenses have been by law appropriated is, in a sense a hindrance, if not a debarring of the Bishop from issuing them.

Rev. J. Carry objected to the appearance of the mitre on the licenses as at present issued.

Rev. Mr. Nicolls proposed, in amendment, that the word "practically" be inserted before the word "debarred;" and this amendment, seconded by Mr. Scott, was passed as the first clause of the resolution.

The bishop then made some statements confirmatory of the assertion of the second clause.

Rev. Mr. Haensel proposed, that, in amendment, the words "That great reason exists for assuming" be placed as the commencement of the second clause.