

Communications.

To the Editors of the Canadian Church Press.

GENTLEMEN.—In your last issue mention is made of a law memorial addressed to Lord Raimond, for the increase of the Episcopate; it alludes to the "elastic character of the Episcopate" in this country, where bishops can be increased according to the wants of the population.

I should be glad to offer a few suggestions as to the need there is, that this principle should be at least recognized by the laity here; it is admitted I believe by most of the clergy.

We have only to look round us to see how actively the Romanists in Canada are at work in extending their Episcopate. See by the papers that a Romanist Bishop of Chatham, has just been designated. Surely the Church of England cannot have less need of a more extended Episcopate, when her numbers in Upper Canada at all events far exceed those of the Roman communion.

Of course, I do not for a moment imagine that, as circumstances are at present, a measure so conducive to the interests of the church, could be adopted. We have only to look to Toronto for an instance of the opposition always offered in certain quarters to any attempt to extend the church, an opposition shown always and with too much success by persons whose conduct should be very different. Notwithstanding this, I wish to have the matter brought under the notice of churchmen generally, and in particular of the members of Synod. They might consider it with reference to the rapid filling up of the country with church families, and the wide field comprised in the present diocese, bearing especially in mind the fact alluded to, viz., the multiplication of the bishops of the Latin communion. Toronto itself with its hundreds of heathen, would be no mean field for a bishop's labours.

Space will not permit me in a letter like this, to enter largely into the reasons which might be urged for a further subdivision of our diocese, even after the eastern portion of it has been set off. I will only notice one thing that might be said, "we have rural deans and archdeacons, why not make them more practical and efficient?" As to rural deans, as they exist at present, (and is not their position and authority of such a nature that they will most frequently be always what they are?) with two or three exceptions they are a pleasing delusion, the invention of modern days. They are not needed, as the efficiency of the early church when bishops were numerous, and rural deans unknown, sufficiently shews. And as to the practical benefits arising from archdeacons, many country clergymen will smile at the idea. The present archdeacon of York, is a gentleman very laborious and pains-taking, very useful on Synod and Church Society committees, and visiting his archdeaconry triennially in the good old quiet fashion of past days;—but with what practical result? Not even a show of interest by the people whose parishes he visits. I have often been present at visitations where only the clergy and churchwardens were present.

Trusting that abler hands than mine will take up the matter, and hoping that this communication is not too long.

I remain, Gentlemen, faithfully yours,
PRESBYTER

METROPOLITAN OF CANADA.

To the Editors of the Canadian Church Press.

GENTLEMEN.—As it is probable some misstatements, evidently unintentional, entertained in a recent article in the Echo, in the appointment of Metropolitan, may have met the eye of several of your readers, I shall be obliged if you would allow me the opportunity of correcting them.

The writer of that article is mistaken in stating that an act of consecration is required, when a minister of the church already holding the office of bishop, is elevated to the dignity of archbishop or metropolitan. In respect to the latter office, now revived within the Colonial Church, in the provinces of Calcutta, Sydney, Cape Town, and New Zealand, it has not been desirable it should confer upon the bishop who holds it the title of archbishop, nor that he should be addressed either as "your grace," or as "most Reverend." In accordance with these precedents, our own recently appointed metropolitan, will, I conclude, be addressed in the same manner as he was previous to his elevation, and that his full designation will receive no other change than the addition of "Metropolitan of Canada," to that which he already has. The "rights and duties" appertaining to his office, are not, I believe, in every respect identical with those which belong to archbishops and metropolitans in England and Ireland; in this matter, however, we shall all obtain full information when the "letters patent" are published, for the benefit of the members of the church throughout the Province. S. E.

August 18th, 1860.

The extract which follows is taken from *Burns' Ecclesiastical Law*, and may be interesting to many of the members of the church in Canada. It contains information respecting both the antiquity and nature of the office which is now revived amongst us:

"The language of the Council of Nice (A.D. 325) renders it quite clear that certain Bishops had a pre-eminence and dignity above the rest.—Let those customs remain in force which have been of old the customs (*dogmata*) of Egypt, and Lybia, and Pentapolis; by which customs the Bishop of Alexandria hath authority over all these; and the rather, that this hath also been the case of the Bishops of Rome, and the same hath been observed in Antioch and in other provinces." The Metropolitans were so called because they presided over the Churches of the principal cities of the Province. It was their duty to ordain the Bishops of their Province, to convoke Provincial Councils, and to exercise a general superintendence over the doctrine and discipline of the Bishops and Clergy within the Provinces. The title of Archbishop was one of honour, but brought with it no authority, and was at first very rarely bestowed, and only on the most distinguished Bishops. The name is not to be met with during the three first centuries. It occurs for the first time in the fourth century, and St. Athanasius appears to have been among the earliest who were distinguished by this title.—*Burns' Ecclesiastical Law*, Vol. I. p. 194.

CHEAP CHURCHES.

To the Editors of the Canadian Church Press.

GENTLEMEN.—You will, I trust, pardon me if—in hope of serving the church—I solicit space in your columns for a few remarks on cheap churches. In the poorer districts of the country, and more especially in new settle-ments, where money is seldom at command, where, in fact, the returns of labor scarcely outstretch the ordinary necessities of life, the problem to be solved, is at how small a cost a building can be erected which, while ecclesiastical in character, will meet the wants of hundreds who now either worship in school-houses or are wholly destitute of a place in which to worship.

The use of school-houses—unavoidable in many cases—is fraught with many evils and inconveniences, on which, however, some limited space will not allow me to dwell. How to escape from these evils and inconveniences, and at the same time make provision for the needs of destitute townships, are the points on which I beg to suggest a few plain thoughts.

Admitting then that our new settlements or townships are poor—even if the poor much may be done toward the erection of a church, if men will only avail themselves and make full use of the ability which God has given them.

In newly settled districts timber is every where abundant, and every woodman is skilled in the use of the axe.

It is in the power of the settlers, therefore, to prepare and lay upon the ground (selected as the site) enough two-sided timber for the walls, and smaller stuff, duly prepared, for rafters, collar beams, braces, &c. They can, by a very moderate expenditure of time during the winter, draw to the nearest saw mill a sufficient number of logs to ensure, by the month of June next ensuing, all the boards required for the casing, lining and covering of the building. Shingles can and should be provided without difficulty—so can also the cedar sleepers for the floor. The material being thus all prepared and on the spot, a "bee" is called to effect what is styled "the raising,"—care being taken to provide good corner men (more especially if there be transients) to ensure true dove-tailing;—and further care that each stick of timber, both at the corners, and also throughout its length at the distance of about every four feet (as nearly as the plan of the windows permit) be secured to the timber immediately beneath it by good two-doch oaken pins. The walls being up and plaster on, the floor and windows are sawn out, and the ends of the timber made permanently steady by facings of plank fastened to them by means of spikes, or which is better (and less costly) oaken pins. The frames of door and windows will fit into these spaces, and if lanceol shaped, the vacant space above, i. e. between the lanceol and the square, can be blocked in with plank, and made fast without any other instruments or tools than an axe, a hammer and a few nails. The preparing and fitting up of the rafters and roofing in shingling and lining (with inch stuff) are not beyond the skill of any ordinary farmer. If the walls be protected outside by perpendicular boarding, battened at the seams, the timber thus protected outside from the weather, will last fully fifty years. Up to this point then, the farmer can help himself—here, therefore legitimately begins his appeal for assistance. The laying of the floor, lathing, plastering, masonry, and interior fittings, e. g. pews or benches, pulpits, chancel, &c., can be accomplished only by skilled labor—or in other words by money. And for these objects, in a moderately sized church, \$400 or \$500 would be amply sufficient. No doubt need be entertained as to the durability of a building so erected. Experience has proved that after a lapse of thirty-seven years, the timber has retained perfect soundness. The only precautions requisite are—Firstly.—That the first or lowest round be of cedar or of other wood not easily affected by damp.—Secondly.—That the "plates" be bound together by an iron rod, or rods—if the length of the structure so require—to prevent spreading—and—Thirdly.—That the walls be merely "pointed" and allowed so to remain for one year, thus affording time for the work to "settle" before lathing and plastering be attempted. A moderately ecclesiastical shape, including transepts, chancel, tower, or belfry, &c., can be given to such churches, in point of expense they might not cost above one half the sum usually spent upon those anomalous framed parallelograms so common in the diocese—and, by teaching our people to help themselves ere they seek help from others they will open to our wealthier brethren a wider field for their benevolence, and thus ensure the rapid multiplication of churches throughout the new and destitute sections of the provinces.

Metairie. Yours in the church, F.

* From some knowledge of the buildings, we strongly think that transients should be avoided in all such structures.—[Editors Church Press.]

Lords Kildare, Dunraven, and Talbot de Malahide have associated themselves with Dr. Todd and other Irish scholars in the work of compiling and publishing a dictionary of the Irish language. The present dictionaries, it appears, are imperfect and untrustworthy; and, for want of a better help, many MSS. supposed to be valuable cannot be translated.

Daniel Dana, Jr., of New York, publishes "Unity and its Restoration: addressed to all Christians who desire to hold the Faith in Unity of the Spirit, and in the Bond of Peace, by a Prebyter of the Diocese."

The Messrs. Chambers, of Edinburgh, say:—The changes produced in the English book trade by the cheap press are not more remarkable than that improvement in taste which has subdued the traffic in books of a politically objectionable and of a demoralizing character. The sale of books of a grossly demoralizing tendency has been driven into obscurity. On this subject we offer the following statements, the result of careful inquiry into the cheap periodical trade in 1859-1860: cheap periodical literature may be classed and summed up in amount as follows:—1. Works of an improving tendency, circulation per month, 8,048,500. 2. Works of an exciting nature, but not positively immoral, circulation per month, 1,500,000. 3. Works immoral, and opposed to the religion of the country, circulation per month, probably under 80,000.

A Philadelphia correspondent of the New York Tribune, who has seen the Girard House lighted up with the new water gas, writes: "All that I see and hear convinces me that this discovery is a reality. I have therefore little doubt that coal gas has seen its brightest days, and that in the five coming years a new era will be inaugurated, by which consumers will get their light at half the present prices."