

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1855.

ST PAUL'S PAROCHIAL MEETING—EASTER MONDAY.

A rather interesting Parial Meeting, altho' at no time were there more than forty persons present, was held at the National School Room, on Monday last, (Easter Monday). The Meeting was organized, and prayer offered by the Ven. the Archdeacon, who was in the Chair.

The Churchwardens presented their Annual Report, Accounts, &c. of the past year, from which it appeared that the whole income of the Church, from Pew Rents, &c., amounted to £957 12 4, which sum had been entirely absorbed in the payment of salaries and other incidental expenses. About thirty pounds over and above remain uncollected.

The Churchwardens and Vestry of the previous year were again elected.

The Accounts were passed to be audited.

The usual sums were voted for the clergy during the present year. Also the salaries of the Organist, Vestry Clerk, &c.

A proposition to increase the Salary of the Sexton by £15, was agreed to conditionally. He is to get it if the Light fund shows a surplus after paying the expenses borne upon it.

A discussion took place on the notice given out in St. Paul's ten days previous, for the appointment of a delegate in the place of the late Hon. H. H. Cogswell. This was continued warmly for some time, upon a Resolution moved by J. W. Ritchie, Esq. as follows:—

"The Rector having proposed to this meeting to appoint a delegate in the room of the late Hon. H. H. Cogswell, to represent the Parish at the proposed Convention in October next.

"And whereas at a parish meeting held on the 16th day of September, 1854, it was resolved:—That it is not judicious at present to establish Synods or periodical meetings of a deliberative body in the Church in this Diocese, but that in compliance with the regulation of our Diocese, two delegates be appointed to attend the meeting now contemplated for the sole purpose, of stating the opinion of this parish, and with instructions to oppose the formation of such Synod."

"And whereas that duty has been performed to the satisfaction of the Parish.

"Resolved:—That the Parish of St. Paul's having expressed by a Resolution that it is undesirable that a Synod or Convention should be held in this Province, this parish will not be represented at any such meeting, and they declare that they will not be bound by any of its acts."

The Resolution was supported on the ground that the notice was inapplicable—the delegates of St. Paul's having been appointed for the special purpose of conveying the sentiments of the Parishioners as opposed to the formation of a Synod, with instructions, that when that duty had been fulfilled, if it were ineffectual, they should retire—that the duty had been satisfactorily performed, and that their functions as delegates immediately ceased. This view of the subject appeared to be generally entertained; but it was contended on the other hand, that a Resolution pledging the Parishioners not to be bound by the proceedings of the Synod, especially when they were so thinly represented, was going too far, and several present expressed themselves strongly against being bound by its terms, as it might be possible enough that the Constitution of the proposed Synod would be such as all would cordially approve.

The usual common arguments were urged against Synods by the mover of the Resolution—to wit, the Bishop's veto—the appointment of the Bishop as at present ordered—his power over the clergy, &c., the dissimilarity on these points to the constitution of such bodies in the United States. To these were replied, that by this mode of Church Government, what those who were now opposing them had all along been contending for, the participation of the laity in Church government, would be attained. That Synods worked well in the United States, and that in Canada also the Church was pleased with their adoption. There was not much to instruct or edify in all that was alleged. Judge Bliss moved an Amendment, embodying the present views of those at the meeting who would not blindly commit themselves against receiving a measure approving itself to their consciences—which is as follows:—

"Resolved:—That the appointment of Delegates having been for the special purpose of opposing a Synod, and that duty having been discharged, that the office and duties of those Delegates have absolutely ceased to exist, and they are no longer recognised as Delegates of this Parish."

The Amendment was lost by a large majority of those present. The Resolution was then put and carried by the same majority.

Another question for the Parishioners, growing out of a Resolution passed by the Vestry of St. Paul's, to sell the Globe Lands and appropriate the proceeds to the repair of the Church and Rectory, came before the Meeting. The Vestry Resolution was as follows:—

Whereas, there is now required for the repairs of the Rectory and the Church, and for other necessary purposes, a large sum of money—and whereas the Pew Rents are insufficient to defray such repelling expenses.

And whereas there is a large portion of Globe Lands which under the Act of the Legislature may be sold if for the interest of the Church, therefore

Resolved:—That it is the opinion of the Churchwardens and Vestry, that a portion of such Globe be sold in order to raise the required amount.

It was moved by Hon. M. B. Almon, and seconded:

Resolved:—That in the opinion of this meeting, the Globe Land should not be sold for the purpose specified in the Resolution of the Churchwardens and Vestry.

The view of the Churchwardens and Vestry was supported by them on the ground of necessity—that the salaries of the clergy, &c. and other incidental expenses, absorbed all the income—that there was no other way of raising the money for these repairs, than by the voluntary contributions of the people, or the sale of the lands—otherwise the Rector was liable to be called upon to make them,—and that the sale of the Globe was the only feasible plan, the people having already contributed to a large amount for similar objects. The sum necessary for these services would be about £600 or £700. A proposition to sell the Rectory and to give the Rector the proceeds of the investment of the purchase money to provide himself a residence, met with some favour on both sides. The opponents of these views, who appeared at first to constitute a majority, contended that under any circumstances, the sale for the purpose of appropriating the proceeds to repair the church and rectory would be illegal—that the Act provided against their sale, except with consent of the Churchwardens, the Bishop and Rector—and even if their consent were obtained the proceeds could not be frittered away in making repairs, or otherwise alienated from the support of the Rectory. That the Rector held them in trust, not only for present benefit, but for that of his successors. The Resolution was then put, and upon a division there appeared in its favor ten, against it 13—thus affirming the resolution of the Churchwardens and Vestry, the majority of whom were present and voted in the negative—and a good portion of the meeting having left the room.

After some further discussion, another Resolution, for an adjournment, was moved and carried as follows:

That this Meeting do adjourn to Wednesday, 2d May, and that the Hon. M. B. Almon, J. W. Ritchie, Esq. and Jos. E. Bennett, Esq. be a Committee to ascertain the expense of repairing the Rectory and St. Paul's Church, and also the probable value of the Rectory if sold, and report to the adjourned meeting.

It is to be hoped that a large Meeting will take place at the time appointed—and that Churchmen will hereafter take a greater interest in the management of their affairs.

THERE never was a time in the history of the City, when the secular prints displayed so large an amount of advertising for the sale of landed property, as at the present. There never was a time, notwithstanding the talk about our prosperous condition, when it was so difficult to realise sales of landed property. The truth we believe to be, that although within the last six months an effort has been made to raise the value of Real Estate in the market, it is intrinsically worth less now than it was three years ago, with no immediate prospect, at least, of being in a better condition. Business affairs also, appear to be in no very prosperous state, and the exercise of more than common industry, and the practice of the most rigid economy is necessary, in those who would live honestly, in order, as the common phrase is, "to make both ends meet." Several failures too, of late, brought about by no particular providence that we are aware, has not tended to establish more strongly than before, the public confidence in our prospects of a change for the better.

A fair sign of the times is, the numerous aspirants for any public office however small, that may happen to fall vacant; nor can we wonder at the anxiety on the part of many to secure to themselves a fixed income, although thereby they may have to regulate their expenditure within the very narrowest compass. Political capital is thus afforded. In this respect, however, we are only approaching the condition of those countries where the fullest measure of constitutional liberty prevails; and we believe that whatever our depression may be, we yet possess resources and advantages, for an industrious population, that will justly compare with them. It does not impress us more favorably with our actual condition, that we now see many an individual striving for a situation which in the olden time he would have thought it beneath him to fill. It is something indeed to find a false pride undergoing the process of eradication. It would be something better still, if it were possible to prevent political influence from being the cause of unpopular appointments to the public service. Unobtrusive merit finds little chance of attaining to its proper position under our present sys-

tem of government, where capability for office is weighed less by ability to perform its duties, than by the support to a party which the appointment is likely to bring or conciliate.

We speak now of the City especially. As a city we do not keep pace with the country. The latter is increasing in wealth, and fast becoming independent of us. Wherever this has taken place, it looks abroad for the supplies which in a dependent state it could not do otherwise than obtain from the Capital. This is one reason why Halifax has remained stationary or nearly so, for the last thirty years. This is also as it ought to be, and the knowledge of the truth has at length begun to work a change in our ideas. We of the City are taught perforce, to look to modern improvement, as a remedy for our stagnant condition—to those gigantic means which build up cities as it were in a day, and drag to light from the seeming earth, its multifarious resources—making agriculture enrich commerce, and commerce improve agriculture. We have commenced to build a "big way for the nation," and it becomes us to rejoice in its onward course, and to encourage its completion towards our borders. Progress must be the order of the day in all things, but in this above all others. Every ten miles of the road finished, is as it were, a river, navigable to its termination, with Halifax at its mouth, and according to the country through which it passes, and its near approach to other resources, improving and fertilizing the soil, bringing staples into industrial action, and establishing markets and interchange of commodities. The realization of this important project is worth every sacrifice that has been made to attain it—and we hope that no premature attempt to gain those advantages which cannot be expected until it begins to speak for itself and to show of its travel, will interfere to retard its completion. The railroad is to do wonders for the country in the estimation of many. The mere sound of improvement, is not however to be taken for the substance. It will be time enough to speculate in land at exorbitant prices, to raise rent, and to enhance the price of all commodities, when it is satisfactorily proved that the Railway is to be a productive or successful enterprise. Let our people beware then, of being led away by excitement upon topics of improvement. The railroad can do nothing for us until it is built; but a forestalling of good times, when bad times exist, may work us much mischief. The price of commodities of all kinds raised 50 per cent., and taxation increased to enable us to fulfil our liberal obligations in behalf of the Railway, is enough to bear for a while, without any further addition to our burdens. It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back, and an extra weight to the cost of living in the Capital, if persisted in will force us out of it altogether, to seek elsewhere an exemption from fiscal exactions and interests cupidity.

THE APOCRYPHA.—It was a short time since alleged in a "shabby editorial notice" in one of the religious prints of the City, that the Rev. M. Maturin's Lecture on the external history of the Bible, embodied good reason why the Church of England should not follow the example of the Church of Rome in using the Apocrypha "in some of her most sacred exercises." Vague remarks of this kind only show the real feeling entertained towards the Church by those who are outside her pale. They are generally made by dissoners from ignorance; sometimes with a knowledge of the truth, but with a view to strengthen the prejudices of their own people against her communion; and more often perhaps to gratify their feelings of religious bigotry, and intolerance of all and every thing that does not harmonize with their own views. But the Church of England, no more than any other Reformed Church, recognizes the Apocrypha. Her sixth Article, after enumerating the Canonical Books, says of the others—"And the other Books (as Hierome saith) the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine." Neither, as was alleged, does the Church use these Books in "some of her most sacred exercises." They are not used at all in her Sabbath worship, except in two sentences of the Offertory—the applicability of which for "instruction of manners" will not be questioned. The truth is that Presbyterians (apart from malice) view the Apocrypha in the same light as Episcopalians, and a Presbyterian would think his family Bible incomplete without it, nor are we assured that there is any particular prohibition of its use in their churches, except that it is reckoned uncanonical. The value therefore of these and such like reflections upon "the sacred exercises of the Church" may safely be left to the candid mind to decide upon the motives which influence those who make them. And to those who do so, be they Free Church Editors or others, we may with all truth apply the censure:—