

to each benefited clergyman in reference to the state of his parish, and copious notes of the information gained were taken by his secretary for his lordship's future guidance. The ceremony of calling over the names and receiving the papers from the clergy occupied nearly three hours.

On each day a similar proportion of clergy were received by the Bishop at the cathedral. On Monday the Rev. Cannon Champneys preached from St. John's Gospel, xv. 16, an impressive and, the latter part especially, appropriate sermon.

The whole of the clergy were reassembled under the dome of the cathedral to-day, at noon, when the Bishop delivered the following

CHARGE.

My Rev. Brethren.—I have been reminded by some of you that this 17th day of November is the 300th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth, and of the close of that reviving effort of Romanism which so sorely tried the Church and nation during the five years of her sister's reign. I have been reminded, also, that it was long the custom to honour this day, in token of thankfulness for the great results secured to us when God's overruling providence placed and maintained Queen Elizabeth on the throne. Certainly these results can scarcely be too highly prized. We, of the Church of England, cannot be too grateful for that aid which the reign inaugurated this day brought to the establishment of our Protestant institutions. And having unknowingly fixed this day, some months ago, for the present meeting, I should be sorry indeed if in any way this Visitation interfered with the desire of any of you to thank God in the midst of your people in the ordinary service of the Church, for the blessings of our Reformed faith, or to stir their hearts, not in a controversial, but a loving, tolerant, yet earnest spirit, to a due appreciation of these blessings. But what can be a fitter employment for the day thus full of associations with the history of our Church, than that we, the clergy of the greatest diocese of England, should be thus solemnly assembled?

Thus, my Rev. brethren, quite independently of any reminiscences of distant date, is for us a very solemn meeting—solemn, whether we look to the present, to the past, or to the future. The vast assemblage within this honoured house of God, now used for the first time for such a gathering of the whole clergy of the diocese—the occasion of our gathering—viz. my first opportunity of seeing you all together, face to face, as your Diocesan—the object of our meeting, to take account of the way in which Christ has been served by us hitherto, and to endeavour to strengthen each other's hands while we join in prayer, and give forth or receive words of advice and encouragement uttered in Christ's name—all these things combine to mark this present day. On my part it must be a day much to be remembered. Let me, in all sincerity, bespeak your prayers, while overpowering thoughts rush into my mind, as I try to realise the position in which I stand to you, and to the vast multitude of the human souls which compose this diocese. God grant that by all of us, as we are thus gathered together, this may be felt to be a day of spiritual refreshment.

And as to connection with the past period of our lives, how do such solemn days of meeting, recurring at rare intervals, send our thoughts backward. Life has had comparatively but few of such days for each of us in our ministerial career—the days on which we were each of us ordained—first deacon, and then priest—the day on which we first entered on a new sphere, in a new cure of souls, or bade farewell to a loved flock after years of pastoral intercourse: these

have been days when, in past times, God's Holy Spirit has striven to awaken in us a deeper sense of our overwhelming responsibilities.

BISHOP BLOOMFIELD.

And many of you, my reverend brethren, must this day recall past Visitations in this diocese, and words of advice spoken to you from this chair by him who, since you last met, has gone to render up the account of his long Episcopate. Suffer me, before we go further, to cast a look backwards on the work which has been doing amongst you during the last thirty years, by the good and great man whose place has now fallen to me. I would not have such words regarded as the mere customary and commonplace acknowledgment of what is due to departed worth. Bishop Bloomfield's was no commonplace character. Men like him have often great faults, as well as great excellencies; and, when they have not such faults, they are quite sure to be supposed to have them by persons from whom they differ in principle or in practice, and with whom they must be brought into some sort of conflict by the very activity of their characters. Great works, in trying times, are seldom accomplished by men whose chief characteristic is mere amiableness and courtesy; though, certainly, he whom we speak of could not have been deficient in any essential of these Christian qualities, or he would not have lived, as he does now, in the affectionate remembrance of so many even of those who at times opposed him. When a man with great intellectual powers, of indomitable industry, with a deep sense of his responsibilities, for whom rest has no charms apart from duty, finds himself in a position which calls forth all his energies, and sees by the light of a daily deepening conscientiousness the endless series of works which summon him in God's name to be up and stirring, it is not likely that, as he never spares himself, he will be very sparing of others. And in the rough conflict of life, while he is brought necessarily into collision with sentiments and principles different from his own, such a man, even while compassing objects which all must agree in honouring, cannot expect to be wafted on his course by the complacent praises of those whom he is often obliged to thwart. Often also a man of influence, one of whose chief characteristics is activity, seeing with great acuteness dangers, which must be met, and impatient of delay in meeting them, will seek the objects he has at heart by some course of immediate energetic action, which persons greatly inferior to himself, not understanding, as he does, the necessity for immediate change, will think themselves justified in severely criticising, and that not without some show of reason, for a better course might perhaps have been devised by longer consideration, had there been time for delay in the pressing emergencies that called for action. Thus such men as he whom we all to-day unite in honouring, will often be regarded as rash, when indeed a full knowledge of the circumstances under which they acted will show that at the time of acting they were right. Great men of the peculiar character I have spoken of must be content to be criticised, and often harshly judged. While they are living, they are sure thus to suffer; it will usually be different when they are dead. And as we look back to-day on the twenty-eight years of the Episcopate of my venerated predecessor how must all paltry discontented criticism be lost in the thought of that vigor as intellect—that deep conscientiousness—that untiring activity—that ever watchful readiness—that grand munificence, which so mainly contributed to change the face of this diocese and of the Church of England during the last thirty years. The 198 churches which he consecrated—the Colonial Episcopate

spread far and wide mainly through his instrumentality—to recount these things is but to go over a thrice-told tale of the great works which he accomplished. Who shall say how far your late Bishop was an instrument in God's hands for carrying our beloved Church safely through a period of great trial, and raising her to a position of unexpected usefulness and honour? Who that remembers the dangers which beset our Church twenty-eight years ago, can fail to be thankful for that brilliant course of Christian usefulness which he was privileged to run? And now that he is gone, the thought of all the good he did must give force to many words of advice which in times past he spoke to you from this chair. May the example of his untiring exertions stimulate us all to ever fresh labours, for Christ's sake.

And when we look on to the days which are coming, it is a serious thing to reflect how much the cause of our national Church, and, with the Church, of true Christianity in this great empire, depends on the use we make of the admonitions we have received in the days that are gone, and of our meeting here now, and of that serious time for examining into the fruits of our ministry, which the questions of a Diocesan Visitation are calculated to suggest, both to him who asks, and to those who answer them. Indeed it is not too much to say that we stand now at the entrance of a new period in our ministerial life. I may be supposed, by two years of preliminary experience, and by attentively pursuing the answers you have kindly sent to my long list of queries, to be placed now on somewhat of a vantage-ground for meeting the great duties which, while life and health are spared, must thicken round me. Short is life at the longest, and he who begins an Episcopate is not far from ending it. You will pray for me, that while the day lasts I may labour in my Master's sight. And you, my rev. brethren, whatever be your age or standing in the ministry—whether you are but young men entering on your work, or fathers in the Church of Christ, approaching the period when the weakly body calls for rest—you will not fail all to remember that, different as may be the duties of the young and the aged pastor, still they are duties which are ever new, and which ever open up new opportunities for serving the Lord we love—whether it be the fresh activity of ardent youth, or the mature and firm guidance of our middle strength, or the fatherly counsels and mild example of declining age, which we have to devote to Christ, that we may bring blessings on our people's souls.

THE LIST OF QUERIES, THEIR NECESSITY.

And now, to enter more formally on the business of our meeting, let me first say a few words as to those queries which I have submitted to you. They have been many and minute. You will not, I trust, think them too minute, when you remember how important it is that I should have a thorough acquaintance both with the secular and the spiritual state of your parochial arrangements. As to secular matters, I must not forget that a responsibility devolves on me, from that position which is assigned to me in the Legislature; and how I am bound to watch, so far as I may, as your Parliamentary representative, over the laws by which at once you are secured in the possession of your rights, and the people for whom you labour are secured also both in their right to command your services, and in the enjoyment of fit places of worship in which you may minister to them. You know that in these two matters many changes have of late been taking place: I mean, first, in the remuneration of the clergy, and their consequent power of devoting themselves to their spiritual calling, without the necessary interruption of other secular pursuits, by which, if inadequately pro-