

The Church Times.

"Evangelical Truth--Apostolic Order."

VOL. XX.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1856.

NO. 18.

Calendar.

CALENDAR WITH LESSONS.

Day	Fast	MORNING.	EVENING.
S.	May 4	Sun. of Ascen.	Deut. 12; Matt. 23; Rom. 8
M.	6	1 Kings 11	3 Kings 16
T.	7	1 Kings 19	4 Kings 17
W.	8	1 Kings 18	5 Kings 19
T.	9	1 Kings 20	6 Kings 20
F.	10	2 Kings 2	7 Kings 21
S.			8 Kings 22

Poetry.

THE TOUCHING OF JESUS.

"If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole."
—ST. MATT. IX.

BY ANNIE CHAMBERS BRADFORD.

TRAVEL-WORN, among the brambles
Groped I, sick and lone,
Vainly searching for the pathway,
All with thorns o'ergrown.
Holy angels! to the Healer
Guide my bleeding soul!
If I may but touch His garment,
I shall then be whole!

Passion-red and purple blossoms
Wooded my foolish feet,—
Basil the bud I gathered,
Filled with nectar sweet;—
Far and farther on I wandered,
Drinking deadly wine,
From each deep and gaudy flower-cup,
As a draught divine.

Then, the noontide sun o'ertook me
In a desert drear,
Where 'mid faded wreaths of purple
Lay the un-buried dead:
Wild Remorse, the only watcher
By their graveless bed,—
Stricken Rachel, still refusing
To be comforted.

Life had fled away, a-frighted,
But each leprous vein
Carries up the hated venom
To my reeling brain.
Yet I see, though dim and distant,
Christ, the Nazarene,—
Holy angels! lead me to Him!
He can make me clean!

Through the crowds that throng about Him,
Lowest of all
Come I, with my spotted raiment
At his feet to fall.
Holy angels! nearer, nearer
Guide my trembling soul!
If I may but touch His garment,
I shall then be whole!

Master, from the bitter apples,
Gilding Pleasure's tree,
I am come repentant, begging
Bread and wine of Thee!
In the dust I crouch before Thee,
Waiting my release,—
Waiting till Thy tender mercy
Bid me go in peace.

N. York Clericman.

Religious Miscellany.

[From the Colonial Church Chronicle, for April, 1856.]

MELBOURNE CHURCH BILL.

We had the pleasure of announcing in our last number that Her Majesty the Queen had given her consent to the Melbourne Church Bill. We now lay before our readers this important document:—

AN ACT to enable the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland in Victoria, to provide for the Regulation of the Affairs of the said Church. [30th Nov. 1854.]

Preamble.

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the regulation and management of the affairs of the United Church of England and Ireland in Victoria: Be it therefore enacted, by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

Assembly may be Convened.

It shall be lawful for any Bishop of the United Church of England and Ireland in Victoria to convene an Assembly of the licensed Clergy and Laity of the Church in his Diocese; and the Bishop, or

in his absence a Commissary, appointed in writing by him, shall preside in such Assembly.

Regulations of Assembly binding on Bishops, Clergy, and Members of Church.

II. Every regulation, act, and resolution of such Assembly, made by the Bishop and the Clergy and Laity thereof, respecting the affairs of the said Church, including all advowson and right of patronage, shall be binding on every such Bishop and his successors, and on the Clergy and Lay Members of the said Church residing within the Diocese for which such Assembly shall have been convened, and on none other, and on them only so far as such regulation, act, or resolution may concern the position, rights, duties, and liabilities of any Minister or Member of the said United Church, or any person in communion therewith, in regard to his ministry, membership, or communion, or may concern the advowson or right of patronage or management of the property of the said Church. Provided that no such regulation, act, or resolution shall be valid except it be made with the concurrence of a majority both of the Clergy and of the Laity, the votes of the Clergy and those of the Laity being separately taken, and except it receive the assent of the Bishop.

Assembly may Establish a Commission.

III. It shall be lawful for any such Assembly, by any regulation, act, or resolution as aforesaid, to establish a Commission for the trial of all Ecclesiastical offences, and also to frame rules for the conduct, management, and mode of proceeding in and under such Commission, and all such rules from time to time to vary, alter, and repeal; and such Commission shall be so constituted as such Assembly may deem expedient—Provided that no such Commission, nor any person acting thereunder, shall by virtue of this Act have or exercise any jurisdiction over persons who are not Clergymen of the said United Church of England and Ireland; and provided also, that such Commission, and the persons acting thereunder, shall report to the Bishop within whose Diocese any such offence shall occur their opinion of the matter referred to them, and the penalty which they would recommend to be imposed, which penalty the Bishop shall not have the power to exceed.

Powers of Assembly and Commission.

IV. It shall not be lawful by any regulation, act, or resolution of any such Assembly, nor by the sentence of any Commission as aforesaid, or any person acting thereunder, to impose any penalty or disability other than such as may be consequent upon a sentence of suspension from or deprivation of an ecclesiastical office or benefice, or may affect such advowson, right of patronage, or property as aforesaid.

V. No regulation of any such Assembly which shall affect any right of Appeal to Her Majesty in Council, or to the Archbishop of Canterbury, or to the Metropolitan of the province, or the subordination of the said Bishops, Clergy, and Laity to the Metropolitan or to the said Archbishop, shall be valid unless the consent of the said Archbishop, or of the said Metropolitan, thereto be previously or thereafter signified by him under his hand and seal, nor unless such regulation be confirmed by an order of the Archbishop of Canterbury; and no regulation, act, or resolution made or passed at any Assembly shall be valid which shall alter or be at variance with the authorized standards of faith and doctrine of the United Church of England and Ireland, or shall alter the oaths, declarations, and subscriptions now by law or canon required to be taken, made, and subscribed by persons to be consecrated, ordained, instituted, or licensed within the said Church.

Regulations of Assembly not to be contrary to Act of Council, &c.

VI. No regulation, act, or resolution of any such Assembly shall be contrary to the statute conferring a Constitution on Victoria, or to any act of the Legislature of Victoria, or have legal force or solidity as against any such Act.

Mode of summoning an Assembly.

VII. When any Bishop of the said United Church in Victoria shall see fit to convene an Assembly as aforesaid, such Bishop shall, at such time as may seem to him meet, previous to the first Assembly in his Diocese, summon thereto the Clergy, being In-

cumbents or licensed by the Bishop within such Diocese, and the Lay Representatives of the Diocese, elected as hereinafter provided, and for electing such Representatives shall require each Clergyman, instituted or licensed to a separate cure of souls, to summon a Meeting of the Laymen of the Church, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, resident within his parish, at such time (within limits which may be prescribed by such Bishop) and at such place within the parish or district as to such Clergyman may seem convenient; and every such Lay Member as aforesaid shall be entitled to vote at such election.

Chairman to be Elected, &c.

VIII. The said Meeting, as soon as five persons are assembled, shall proceed to elect a chairman by a majority of those present; and the Clergyman may be present, and qualified to act as such Chairman; and the Chairman shall cause a list to be made of those who shall be present, and add thereto the names of any who shall subsequently attend before the proceedings are closed, and shall claim to vote thereat. And every such Layman present shall, before taking part or voting at such Meeting, sign the following declaration:—

"I, A. B., whose name is hereto subscribed, do declare that I am a Member of the United Church of England and Ireland, and belong to no other religious denomination."

Provided that no person shall be entitled to vote at any such Meeting who is known to have impugned the doctrines or discipline of the said Church.

Representatives to be Elected.

IX. Every such Member shall choose as a representative one male person, who shall have been a communicant of the said Church for at least the term of twelve months preceding the day of such meeting. And if more than fifty and less than one hundred persons shall attend and vote, it shall be lawful for such Meeting to elect one additional Representative, and so for each additional fifty persons attending and voting as aforesaid. Provided that no Parish or District shall return more than four such Representatives.

Mode of Election, &c.

X. In case at any such Meeting the number of persons proposed for election exceed the number which the Meeting is authorized to elect, the Chairman shall take in writing the votes of the qualified persons present and enumerated as aforesaid; and every such person may give one vote for each of such of the persons proposed, not exceeding the number which the Meeting is authorized to elect, as he may think fit; and the Chairman shall declare the number of votes given for each of the persons proposed; and the Chairman, if he be not a Clergyman, shall be entitled to vote at, and may be elected by, such Meeting. And where the votes of two or more persons are equal, the Chairman, if he be not a Clergyman, may give a double vote, and, if he be a Clergyman, may give a casting vote for any such person.

Certificate to be given, &c.

XI. The Chairman shall cause to be delivered to each person elected a certificate of his election, and shall sign the minutes of the Meeting, in token of their correctness, and, unless he be the Clergyman of the parish or district, shall forward them to such Clergyman, together with all certificates, subscriptions, and lists which had been laid before the said Meeting, and a certificate of the names, callings, and addresses of the persons chosen; and the Clergyman shall forward the said documents to the Bishop, to be laid before the Assembly, at the meeting thereof.

Declaration to be made.

XII. Each Lay Representative elected as aforesaid shall, before taking part or voting at such Assembly, sign and deliver to the President thereof a declaration in the form following:

"I, A. B., whose name is hereto subscribed, do declare that I am a communicant of the United Church of England and Ireland, and belong to no other religious denomination."

Assembly may make Regulations, &c.

XIII. It shall be lawful for the first or any future Assembly as aforesaid to make such regulations, acts, or resolutions as it may deem fit for altering the constitution of such Assembly, with respect to the num-