

bents of the Archdeaconry of Dorset, in the diocese of Sarum,

"Showeth that the Archdeaconry of Dorset, though it contains more benefices than the two archdeaconries of Sarum and Wilts together, and therefore constitutes more than half of the whole diocese, is virtually excluded from representation in your honourable House, being represented by proctors in whose election its clergy have no voice.

"That this hardship has arisen from the practice of electing for session two proctors only from the three archdeaconries of the diocese, whereby one archdeaconry, at least, must always be unrepresented in Convocation; and in consequence the archdeaconry of Dorset, since its annexation to the see of Sarum, never sends a representative to your honourable House.

"That so long as Dorset was united to the diocese of Bristol, it was always represented by its own proctors, and your petitioners respectfully submit that, as the Act of Parliament 6 and 7 Will. IV., c. 77, and the order in Council dated October 6, 1836, which annexed the archdeaconry to Sarum, could not have intended to deprive it of any of its ancient rights and privileges,—those rights and privileges ought still to be secured to it.

"Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your honourable House to take into consideration the above matters, amongst other *gravamina* or *reformatanda*, and to apply a remedy, so far as may be possible, to this unobscured grievance.

"And your petitioners will ever pray"

STANDING ORDERS.

The Rev. Dr. JELF presented the following report, which he would move the adoption of on the following day.—

"The Committee of the Lower House of Convocation, appointed Feb. 11, 1858, to consider a proposal of the Ven. Archdeacon of Salop, relative to the order in which motions, notice of which may have been given, should be taken, and, further, to examine the standing orders numbered 18, 19, 20, in order to consider what alterations can be made in them, or what other orders may be substituted for them, by which the consideration of the motions on the minutes made by private members may be secured and expedited; together with a resolution, moved by Dr. Wordsworth, as an instruction for the guidance of the committee,—have agreed to the following report:—

"The committee have considered the standing orders referred to, which run as follows:—

"No. 18. That when a separate committee of the Lower House has been named, the House shall direct what number of the members shall form a quorum."

"No. 19. That motions with reference to reports from committees shall take precedence of other motions on the paper."

"No. 20. That a motion to suspend a standing order take precedence of all other motions."

"No. 18. As regards the first of these standing orders, the committee see no reason to suggest any change.

"No. 19. The precedence assigned in the 19th standing order to motions in reference to reports of committee appears to be reasonable, and ought, in the opinion of the committee, to be maintained; it being, of course, understood that all subjects sent down by his Grace the President, for the consideration of the Lower House, take precedence of all motions originated in the Lower House.

"No. 20. Referring to the standing order No. 20, the committee are of opinion that some expedient should be devised, which, without interfering with the privileges of individual members, or limiting the discretion of the House, may prevent the interruption of the business of Convocation by unseasonable debates. They would accordingly recommend that in certain special cases the Pro-

locutor should be empowered to put the question summarily, without allowing any discussion.

"The committee, for instance, propose that the standing order No. 20 should be modified thus, viz:—

"That a motion to suspend a standing order take precedence of all other motions, but that, without allowing any debate, the Prolocutor do at once put the question, 'Aye or No,' on that motion.

"With the same end in view, the committee further recommend the addition of a supplemental standing order, to the following effect, viz:—

"No. 21. That when (a) schedules of *gravamina* et *reformatanda* are presented, or (b) when notice of motion is given by individual members to the House, no debate be permitted to arise at the time of such presentation, or of such notice, on the merits of the statements and propositions contained in such schedules or notices.

"(a) That with respect to schedules of *gravamina*, any such schedule, when presented, may be dealt with in any of the following ways, viz:—

"1 It may be referred to the committee of *gravamina* et *reformatanda*.

"2 It may, unless the House object, be carried up by the Prolocutor to His Grace the President, as only the *gravamen* of the individual or individuals signing it.

"3 The house may (if it deems the matter to be of sufficient urgency and importance) decide that it may be discussed with a view to its adoption if approved of after discussion by the House, without passing through the committee of *gravamina*, but that in all cases the question as to which of the foregoing modes of procedure shall be adopted by the House shall be decided without debate, the sense of the House being at once taken, 'Aye or No.'

"(b) With respect to motions other than those connected with schedules of *gravamina* or reports of committees, that they shall be taken according to priority of notice, unless the House shall see fit, by a vote without discussion, to select any particular question for discussion.

"The committee confidently believe that the proposed new standing order will, if adopted by the House, largely contribute to the regularity, decorum, and efficiency, of its proceedings, and that the best method, of securing and expediting in their turn the consideration of the motions of individual members will be a general endeavour to economise the time of the House, and concentrate its attention on such objects of immediate and pressing general importance as, till they are disposed of, must of necessity demand a priority of deliberation and despatch.

"The committee beg leave to add that in their opinion it would conduce to the order of the proceedings of the House if printed copies of the standing orders were hung up in some conspicuous part of the House."

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE ACT.

The PROLOCUTOR, in the absence of Archdeacon Denison (the chairman) read a report, agreed to by the committee of *gravamina*, on the *gravamina* of Canon Selwyn and Rev. J. Jebb, refused last session, on the subject of the Matrimonial Causes Act.

Canon SELWYN—I beg to move, that, as this is a matter of *gravamen*, and a very important one, it be adopted by the House and made an *articulus cleri*, and as such taken to the Upper House.

The Rev. F. C. MASSINGBERD proposed to substitute for the following words—"That since the act is felt by a very large number of the clergy materially to have changed the law of the Church" the words "Appears to have placed the law of the Church at variance with the law of the State."

The Rev. Lord A. COMPTON said, with Mr. Mas-

singberd's permission, and also, he believed, with the permission of the seconder, he would move that instead of the amendment being worded, "Has placed the law of the land at variance with the law of the Church," it should be worded, "With the previous existing law of the Church." He moved, by way of amendment, to make that alteration.

Archdeacon THOMAS seconded the motion.

After some discussion, Lord A. COMPTON said, as the feeling of the House was against his amendment, he begged leave to withdraw it.

A long discussion having taken place, the PROLOCUTOR then proceeded to put the question. The committee had reported thus:—"The committee are of opinion that since this act is felt by a very large number of the clergy materially to have changed the law of the Church, and to press hardily upon them, it ought to be amended. The committee also, fully recognizing the supreme power of the Imperial Parliament to legislate for all estates within the realm, are of opinion that when changes in the law are proposed, which would affect the doctrines of the Articles of the Church, or the duties required of the clergy, it is desirable that the advice of the clergy should be sought before the enactment of such changes." Upon that report being laid upon the table, Canon Selwyn had claimed the right to frame it as an *articulus cleri* and carry it to the Upper House; and had proposed to say, instead of "the committee are of opinion," "the House is of opinion." In that shape it might be carried to the Upper House. But Mr. Massingberd had proposed an amendment in this form—instead of the words in the report, "materially to change the law of the Church," to insert the following words:—"To have placed the law of the State at variance with the law of the Church." The vote which he (the Prolocutor) had to take was this—"That the words proposed to be substituted stand part of the *articulus cleri*;" and afterwards he should propose, as a substantive motion, that it be adopted as an *articulus cleri*.

A show of hands was then taken on Mr. Massingberd's amendment.

The PROLOCUTOR having declared the numbers to be equal, a division took place, when there appeared—for the amendment, 28; against it, 33; majority, 5.

The PROLOCUTOR then enquired if it were the pleasure of the House that the Report, as amended by Canon Selwyn, should be adopted as an *articulus cleri*.

The motion was carried in the affirmative, and the report was adopted in that form.

REPORT OF THE DIACONATE COMMITTEE.

Archdeacon BICKENSTETH said it would be in the recollection of the House that two years ago a committee was formed of the two Houses to consider the whole subject of the Home and Foreign Missions of the Church. The Lower House presented their report at the beginning of the last session, and by the direction of the President, that report was taken into consideration, and was the subject of considerable deliberation. The House having discussed the first part of that report, formed upon it a representation which was sent up to the other House. That representation contained a recommendation that the question of the extent of the Diaconate should be referred to a committee, and the Prolocutor was kind enough to appoint such committee, the report of which he would now read:—

"The committee appointed to consider, 1. Whether the Diaconate might not be extended in such a manner as to mark more distinctly the difference between that order and the priesthood, and thus to give increased efficiency to both, by a better adjustment of their several duties, as defined