

which this purpose may be carried out. We can be received at St. John's School Building, Manlius, in the absence of the scholars occupying their dormitories at night), Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock, Jan. 7, and remaining till Friday evening. Will you inform Dr. Babcock if you will attend?

This year the meeting will take the place of the annual Conference. Most of the topics suitable for that have been repeatedly and ably treated, not only among us but in Church Congresses and by the Public Press. If prayer, communion and reflection should bring us larger gifts and more grace from the Holy Spirit, we should be so much the better prepared for future Conferences, and for all the holy labor to which we are called and set apart. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered each morning.

It must seem, I think, by all, that in both the topics and the tone of conversation such a company is to be distinguished from ordinary social gatherings: that much in the way of pleasurable talk which would be blameless elsewhere would be incongruous here; and that the mind and tongue should be uniformly subdued to the sacred spirit and grave purposes of the occasion. Your daily prayers are earnestly asked meantime that the Lord of life and light would grant us his blessing, and so instruct and re-consecrate us that we may more effectually "prepare and make ready" His way.

In order to relieve those of the Clergy whose means would not allow them to expend money for this object, and yet would consider attendance a privilege, I give notice that the expense at Manlius will be met by a common fund; that those who wish to pay for themselves may contribute to this fund \$1.50 each; and those who desire can make offerings for their poorer brethren; and that what is lacking after this will be supplied: so that none should stay away on account of the cost. As to traveling expenses, missionaries at a distance from Manlius, receiving a stipend from the Board, and feeling unable to pay railroad fare, are requested to send their names confidentially to me.

I am affectionately your Bishop,
F. D. HUNTINGTON.

Pursuant to the above call, the Clergy of the Diocese of Central New York, to the number of forty eight all told, assembled at Manlius; many others regretting their inability to attend, and sending forward their contributions to the "common fund."

At the opening service in the chapel, the Bishop greeted the Brethren cordially, and explained the object of the summons. Without laying down rigid rules for the occasion, he recommended that even when not engaged in their united duties in the chapel, all should regard the time and place as sacred; that much time should be spent morning, noon, and night, in private meditation and prayer in the several apartments; and that, in their social intercourse, the tone of their conversation should be suitably subdued; that such topics as are ordinary and secular, church politics, the absent brethren, with anecdotes told for entertainment, should be carefully avoided. It is needless to say that these suggestions were gladly received as the law of a House, given by a father to his sons; and that they were faithfully carried out. For forty-eight hours, Bishop, Priests, and Deacons, hospitably provided for by the Head-Master of St. John's and his family dwelt together under one roof in great harmony and comfort. In the interval between the more public devotions, the Clergy either withdrew into retirement, or might be seen gathered into little groups about the halls, library, and parlors of the ample building, or walking up the fine varied uplands surrounding the site. At night, the lights being extinguished at a comparative and early hour, most of the guests were admitted in the "alcoves" of the Dormitories. The meal was blessed with a very short responsive act of worship, such as is used habitually by the School. As desired, the fare was simple, though plentiful. All the household life was marked by an easy regularity.

In the chapel, each day began with an early Celebration of the Holy Communion, preceded by an appropriate hymn sung by all. In the forenoon, Morning Prayer was said, and several hymns, (penitential and supplicatory,) were sung so at Evening Prayer.

Three times in the day the Bishop (sitting in his chair) addressed the

Clergy for about an hour; the matter being for the most part written, only occasionally reading from some devotional writer of the Church, ancient or modern. The central idea of all the six addresses, in order, was "Sacrifice," in its relation to the entire spiritual life, moral character, and official functions of the Holy ministry. Although the substance of these conferences was largely taken down in notes by the Clergy, it was the Bishop's desire that they should neither be reported nor commented upon outside.

After each one, there was a considerable pause for silent meditation and self-examination. Then, any brother, so moved, gave utterance to such thought, or train of thought as was suggested to his mind, or asked a question. At the close of every session, the Bishop conducted a special service, constructed by himself; consisting mostly of portions of the Psalter, the Lesser Litany, ancient Collects, the prayers of Bishop Wilson and Taylor, and of other English divines, and the *Veni Creator*, with Singing and Benediction. Between the parts, there were frequent intervals of silence for more searching self-scrutiny or personal petitions.

Bishop Huntington observed that although he had not, in his invitation called the meeting a "Retreat," he had no objection to that name as a proper description of it. He only wished it understood that he was more concerned for the character and results of the occasion, than for the designation; and that he had not attempted to conform it to any particular pattern.

The clergy were all very much impressed with the admirable arrangements for the progress, comfort, and healthy enjoyment of the boys of St. John's. It is undoubtedly one of the very best and pleasantest Church-Schools for boys in the whole country.

At the close of the meeting, the following "minute" was adopted: "The Clergy assembled at St. John's School, Manlius, during this Epiphany week, by the invitation of their Bishop, desire before they separate to convey to him their unanimous and hearty appreciation of his labor, for the deepening of their spiritual life; and pray that the Divine Blessing may rest upon him and them, and bring him fruit from the precious seed sown during this holy season of retirement and devotion. The undersigned were desirous to communicate to the Bishop this action of the clergy."

WALTER AYRAULT.
HENRY R. LOCKWOOD.

Thus fittingly concluded a religious gathering, which will be remembered with feelings of the liveliest gratitude and pleasure, by every one who was so blessed as to have participated in its sessions. Of one thing there can be no doubt; though unique in many particulars, if the same idea were introduced into, and carried out, by all the Dioceses of the American Church, there would ensue an unprecedented advance in a knowledge of the more salient and saving principles of Christianity; an increase of genuine spiritual fervor, that would not but be contagious wherever carried; and a renewed consecration to the several departments of the holy life of the Priesthood, that would be as abiding and strong as the divine source from whence it flows. The opinion expressed at the close of the Service by one, honored for his learning and piety, and respected for his wisdom in the General Councils of the Church, to the effect that this Retreat marks a new epoch in the life of the Clergy, of the Diocese of Central New York, and of its people, found no dissentients, but a repetition of the hearty "Amen" that had characterized the devotions from its beginning.

A spontaneous and unanimous desire from the Clergy was expressed to Bishop Huntington that his papers might be published in book form, in order that not only those present might have the opportunity of studying more leisurely what they had heard and so much appreciated, but that the Church at large might be permitted to share in what properly belonged to the whole body of the faithful. As indicated in the above, the Bishop did not give his immediate consent. There are those, however, who, having faith in the eventual triumph of the true fitness of things, yet hope, that the articles may appear, and that at no very distant day.

S. H. G.
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TENDERS will be received by this Department, at Ottawa up to 10th February next, for the construction of a PIER and LIGHTHOUSE TOWER on Sand Point, Shelburne Harbor, Nova Scotia. Plans and Specifications can be seen and Forms of Tender procured by intending Contractors, at this Department, here at the Agency of this Department, Halifax, and at the Office of the Collector of Customs, Shelburne.

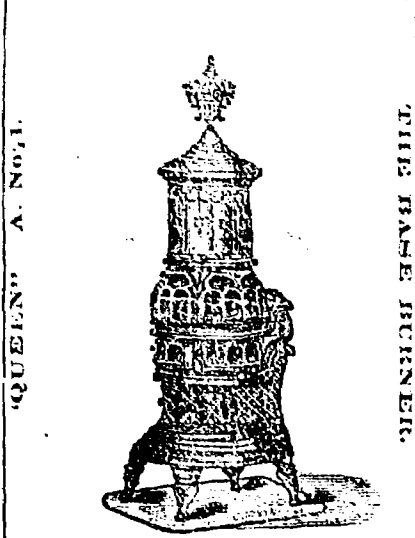
Wm. Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine, Department of Marine, Ottawa, 2nd Jan, 1880

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