

Correspondence.

HYMNS FOR THE TIMES.

DELIVERANCE FROM THE PLAGUE.

The Lord repented him of the evil and said to the Angel that destroyed the people, *It is enough.*" —II SAM XXIV 10

"It is enough," and far and wide
The direful Plague has spread,
And thousands mourn on every side
The dying and the dead.

The giant hills—the mighty deep
No safety-barrier raise;
Its march is in the hour of sleep
And in the noon-tide blaze.

No skill can stay its wild career,
It mocks our jealous care;
It revels in our panic fear,
It rides upon the air.

"It is enough!"—spell-like the word
Restraints th' Avenger's hand;
"It is enough!"—thy fiat Lord,
Has spared our threaten'd land.

In pity Thou hast changed the scene,
And pale Disease has fled
Before the Angel set between
The living and the dead.

Around thy altar-steps we throng
O Saviour Christ, our Shield;
A nation's thanks to Thee belong
A nation's praise we yield.

W. B.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 1854

HOW "CONVENTIONS" ARE HELD IN VIRGINIA.

THE Canada "Echo," to which we are often indebted for profitable clippings, thus introduces a seasonable extract in reference to the approaching Convention of the Diocese of Toronto. We think it well to republish it in view of our approaching gathering. We hope the example of Virginia will be followed so far (at least) as to have frequent Religious Services in all our Churches. On former occasions of Visitation a failure in this respect was lamented by many, and a contrast, not very favourable to the Church, has been drawn between the practice of other denominations, at their annual meetings, and ours. When so many clerical Brethren are likely to be gathered here, the laity will expect and no doubt will gladly attend extra services, and at extra hours—perhaps even an early one before breakfast. But certainly we think a good attendance may be expected every evening during the Session.

VIRGINIA CONVENTIONS.—In the prospect of an early meeting of our diocesan Synod, what an excellent example is presented for our imitation in the following account of the Virginia Convention, which forms part of a series of articles now appearing in the *Parish Register*. Considering how entirely dependent we are, for the success of all means of usefulness, upon the supply of the Spirit of Grace, how earnest should we be in prayer that our coming together, as a church, for counsel and action, should be for the better and not for the worse. We earnestly commend the following extract to the attention of all who shall be called to take part in the coming Synod.

The Conventions have been subjects of special prayer. For some days previous, a few (how many we know not) have wrestled in supplication with the Almighty that they might prove scenes of spiritual blessing to the assembled people. The minds of many clergy and laity upon their going up to this solemn yearly assembly, are observed to be in a posture of serious expectation. [NOTE.—A sufficient reason why many never receive a blessing is that they never look for it.] The Convention meets on Wednesday morning and continues its sessions until Saturday evening, the clergy and visitors remaining until Monday for religious services. On Tuesday evening, previous to the meeting of the Convention, there is usually service for such as may have already assembled. The Convention sermon is usually of a most earnestly-practical character, urging some questions of duty either upon the clergy or upon the people as members of the Church. In twenty years we do not recollect a single discourse intended to bear against any other body of Christians, and not more than two or three bearing upon controversies within our own Church.

The Convention sermon is generally followed by an energetic address by the Bishop, tending to give immediate and practical effect to the sermon, and to prepare the minds of ministers and people for the errand which has brought them together. The tenderest feelings and conscience of the audience are thus often sensibly touched at the very outset. The business of the Convention, unless in cases of unusual pressure, is suspended at eleven o'clock for divine service, and is resumed at two o'clock.

We do not recollect any thing for many years which, as it respects party, could have been displeasing to any member. The only thing that looks like contention is when it comes to be decided which of the parishes applying for the next Convention shall be gratified.

A meeting is invariably held at six o'clock in the morning, which is opened by singing and a selection of prayers from the Liturgy. This is followed by two or more extempore addresses, between which, as also at the close of the meeting, there is singing and generally extempore prayer. These meetings are conducted sometimes by one of the Bishops, and sometimes by such of the clergy as the minister of the parish may request. Churches of the largest size are commonly filled to overflowing, and the happy effects of these meetings have been marked and enduring.

At eleven o'clock, and at night, there is the regular service and a sermon in the Episcopal, and generally in other churches, offered for the occasion, in the place where the Convention is held. These sermons are also frequently, though not always, followed by exhortations or addresses. The rector or rectors of the churches where the Convention is held invite the preachers. Of so large a body, but few comparatively can preach, and these not always the best, though the sermons are for the most part well calculated to awaken sinners, or to instruct and stir up Christians to greater zeal and diligence. Sermons have been preached on some of these occasions which have been felt through the whole diocese.

In some instances, where there has not been an afternoon session of the Convention, the afternoon has been spent in religious services in private houses, where the clergy were entertained. After the experience, this is further than ever from being deemed over action and excess. Conscious blessings repel such worldly judgments. In the smaller towns, the community seems very much given up to this work for the time being, as at the great religious feasts of the Jewish Church; and thus good influences become contagious, acting and re-acting, until a sort of public sentiment is created which becomes beneficial and helpful to the good work in more ways than can shortly be described. By repeated blows the world is driven back, and the things of religion and the concerns of eternity get a more continued hearing. The truths of religion are of such a nature, that if they can be kept in continued contact with the soul, it cannot remain indifferent to them any more than the wood can remain indifferent to the fire that embraces it. Earnest and unceasing prayer goes forth to Him who is able to deliver. The Holy Ghost is given. It convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of a judgment to come. It takes of the things of Christ and shows them to inquiring souls, and they are born again. Christians find new accessions of spiritual life and joy, and ministers are greatly encouraged and resolve on new endeavours for the salvation of their people, and thus the whole diocese is blessed.

We shall be glad to be informed by our friends in the Country Parishes, about their action on the Bishop's Circular, and to publish the names of Delegates whenever appointed. Digby, we understand, has determined to send none. Where such determination has been come to under the idea, that exemption will thus be procured from the operation of the proposed Assembly, if action follows at all—it will be well perhaps to consider that such may not be the case—and that therefore it may be the safer plan to be represented on the occasion, whatever may be the views entertained by the Parish as to the proposal to be laid before the Meeting.

LAY DELEGATES.—We suggested the propriety of an arrangement for the accommodation of these, amongst the members of the Church in this City. We believe none of the Clergy will be obliged to go to a Boarding House, and we hope the same may be said of our Lay brethren. If the Clergymen in the country would send the names of their Staff, to any one here, before hand, we doubt not a billet may be secured. If no better agent can be found, we will try our best to carry out the plan—but no time should be lost—as we have barely a fortnight before Clerics and Laics will be down upon us.

PRaiseworthy LIBERALITY.—A friend has shown us an Irish paper containing an address from the Parishioners of Monkstown, to the Rev. John St. George Williams, senior Curate of the Parish for 18 years, asking his acceptance of a piece of plate and 250 Sovereigns, (£312 10) as "a small tribute of their esteem and affection." The Parish is said not to be a rich one. The worthy Clergyman is married to Miss Elizabeth Usher, daughter of Sir Thomas Usher once Commissioner at this Dockyard. Such acts are honorable to both clergy and people.

We are happy to hear that the works on the Shubenacadie Canal are making rapid progress, although little noise is made about them.

It is expected that Cars will be running on the Railroad for ten miles out of Halifax by the 1st. of October. Locomotives are looked for by

THANKSGIVING DAY.—Thursday last was well observed in this city, by all the Protestant denominations, as a Day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for preservation from Cholera, and for an abundant harvest. In St. Paul's the Lord Bishop preached an appropriate Sermon in the morning, and there was also Divine Service (crowded) in the evening, and at St. Luke's in the afternoon. In St. George's Church, likewise, there were two full services, besides one at St. John's Chapel, Bedford Basin—congregations good on every occasion. Collections were taken up in aid of the Clergy Widow's and Orphan's Fund, amounting at St. Paul's—morning and evening, to £43 6 9½; St. Luke's, £16 2 4; Falkland, 10s.; St. George's, £12 0 9; St. John's Chapel, £1. The collection at Dartmouth amounted to £3, among which, unusual sight we believe in the collection plate of a country congregation, shone a bright sovereign. We hope the contributions to this important fund will rapidly grow in amount, and in the estimation of our own people. They cannot more effectually lighten the heart of the Missionary than by thus making some provision for those whom he cannot provide for.

The Bishop thanks those persons who have kindly sent some of the Reports of the S. P. G. required to complete the Set for the Diocesan Library, and at the same time repeats his request to the Clergy and others throughout the Diocese, to endeavour to procure and to forward to Mr. Gossip the numbers still wanting, for the years 1780, and all of earlier date, 1783, 1787, 1792, 1797, 1800, 1804, 1806, 1808, 1837-8.

In answer to inquirers, we are enabled to state that the Clergy will be expected to appear in their robes at the Visitation. They will be required to produce their Letters of Orders and Licenses.

The Rev. Geo. W. Hill having resigned the Curacy of St. George's, will (D. V.) preach his farewell sermons at the Parish Church on Sunday morning next, and at St. John's Chapel at 3 p. m.

LETTERS RECEIVED

Rev. W. J. Jarvis—with £2 10, and one new subscriber. Rev. J. Broadbent. Mr. Thos. Organ—think I better under the circumstances to discontinue the paper at present. Rev. J. S. Smith—1 new subscriber.

Holloway's Pills.—Extraordinary Cure of Palpitation of the Heart.—Professor Holloway had the pleasure of receiving the following letter, dated March 17th, 1854.—"Dear Doctor.—Your Pills are entirely good; a few years ago I was under the treatment of Dr. —, of this city. I suffered with palpitation of the heart to so great an extent, that I was frequently obliged to abstain from any kind of exercise, mental or bodily, for weeks together. A short time since, I was seized with violent sickness and spitting of blood. I, of course, went to my old friends, but finding him out, I went into a Store in this City, and seeing several boxes of your Pills, I purchased one, took a few doses, and the result was very favourable by persevering with them. I am entirely cured, and have to thank you for now enjoying good health."
J. HARRIS, Luncheon, V. D. L.

Married.

On Wednesday, the 20th inst., in St. Luke's Chapel, Halifax by the Rev. Dr. Shrove, Rector of Dartmouth and Uncle to the bride, nuptials in the Rev. W. Bullock, ALFRED TAYLOR, Esq., of St. John N. B., to EMMA, fourth daughter of the late Thomas W. James Esq., of this City.

On Thursday, 21st inst., by the Rev. P. G. McGregor, Mr. RICHARD DREW, Corporal Royal Sappers and Miners, to Miss MARIAN DAVISON, formerly of Truro.

Died.

On the 15th inst., at his residence Green Grove, Falmouth Hants Co., WILLIAM HENRY SNEY, Esq., in the 63rd year of his age. Mr. Sney served many years in the General Assembly of the Province, as Representative of that Township.

On the 7th of May, at Mysore, from Jungle Fever, MAILLARD MUNRO, eldest son of Inspector General Munro.

Shipping List.

ARRIVED

Friday, Sept. 15th.—R. M. Steamship Europa, Litch, Boston, 30 hours—has \$25,000 for Halifax and \$25,000 for England.

Saturday, Sept. 16th.—Schr. Argo, Nickerson, Newfoundland Revenue schr. Sarah & Adelaide, Com. Boat, from the fishing grounds; Fanny Stewart, McIlenn, Eastport.

Sunday, Sept. 17th. Brig Loyalist, Miller, Falmouth, Jan. 18th, Mita, Winsor, Sagua la Grande, 16 days; Blomner, Thorburn, Boston, 3 days; schr. Mary E. Smith, Am packt' Gove, Boston, Banker, Am' Knowler, Boston.

Tuesday, Sept. 19th.—Revenue schr. Alice Rogers, Com. Knicker, from the fisheries, schr. Nautilus, Zwicker, Philadelphia, schr. Frij. Swann, Baltimore, 15 days; Providence, Crowell, Boston; Chiefship, Fraser, ditto; Liverpool, Day, Liverpool, 9 hours; Ariel, Pierce, Shelburne.

Wednesday, Sept. 20th.—Harque Maria, Sydney, 3 days; schr. Sophronia Smith, Gloucester 3 days.

Thursday, Sept. 21st.—R. M. Steamship Curlew, Satopson, St. Thomas, via Bermuda, 12 days; brig Pomona, Johnson, New York; brig Basler, Cleverley, Jamaica, 24 days; schr. Harriet White, Boudroit, Boston, 5 days; schr. J. M. W. Young, Baltimore, 10 days.

Friday, Sept. 22nd.—Brig Philo, Marshall, New York, 5 days; schr. Pearl, Cunningham, New York, 4 days.

CLEARED.

Friday Sept 15th—Halifax 'pkt' O'Brien, Boston—Litch, Smith, New Carlisle, Canada.

Saturday, Sept. 16th.—Brigade, R. B. Porter, Esq., Liverpool, G. B. Quebec, Warren, Kienlueto, Ugha, Antwerp, Holder, New York; schr. Providence, Straits, St. George's Bay; Alho, Newfoundland; Herald, Hopkiss, Newfoundland.

Tuesday, Sept. 19th.—Bayque, Star of the East, Wallace, River St. Lawrence; Spermaceti, Oliver, Quebec; brig. Brisk, Downley, Porto Rico; Lady Oke, Wood.