

fact disclosed by the Inspector's report is also deserving of remark, as being calculated to dispel any remaining uneasiness as to the prospect of the spread of epidemic disease amongst us. As we advance into September the general mortality seems to be rapidly diminishing. Thus we find that the week ending September 18, shows a decrease of 27 deaths on the previous week, and 40 on the week before.

## The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 1856.

### DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY.

NOTWITHSTANDING all the agitation which has been promoted to create and encourage suspicion and alarm among Churchmen, it is gratifying to receive indisputable evidence of a strong and prevailing feeling in favor of our Diocesan Assembly; and we are confirmed in the opinion not only that it will produce abundant good in the Church, but, that it will ultimately commend itself to the intelligent judgment of all sound Churchmen. In a few days the Assembly will be in Session, and we have a right to expect that the prayers of the Church will be offered, "that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavors upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations." The Diocesan Assembly is established and its constitution settled. We have therefore no reason to fear its failure; but, we must all desire that it should be impartially examined and perfectly understood; that pious Christians should be assured that it is in accordance with religious truth, and that scrupulous subjects should be convinced that it is not adverse to popular rights.— Upon the first of these points it is not necessary to say much, as we have not only the records of antiquity in its favor, but, instances are preserved in the Word of God: while not the Church alone, but almost every sect of professing Christians have adopted some assembly from which rules and regulations for the government of the whole body should emanate. But, it is not so much on this account that objection is made, as that it is esteemed a novelty, to infringe the rights and encroach upon the liberties of Christians: and men are uneasy in the fear that it is something to increase the supreme authority, and as such enforced upon the acceptance of Churchmen. But is this truly the case? We allow at once, that in the English Church, the synodical action had fallen into disuse: we had been so closely connected with the State, and so reticulated with all its legal enactments, that the independent action of the Church seemed to be almost unnecessary—and this in some measure prevailed in the Colonies, until recently the connection has been formerly renounced by the Colonial Legislatures; and now unless we adopt the principle of self government we are left in a state far less advantageous than a sect of yesterday. This was immediately discovered, and the remedy is sought in the establishment of Diocesan Synods. But, it has not been done in a capricious and arbitrary manner. We believe we may state this of all the Colonial Secs. We are sure we can boldly assert it with respect to our own.

If we have been rightly informed, the Bishop of Nova Scotia had been frequently urged to take the sense of the Diocese on the expediency of such an Assembly; more than once he had met public censure that he had not done so; but, instead of acting precipitately he waited until a fit opportunity occurred, by which the labor and expense might be saved: such an opportunity was afforded by the *Provincial Exhibition*, which would necessarily bring many of the influential Laity to Halifax, and the Visitation of the Clergy, to which the whole body would be cited.

It was on this occasion that the preliminary Meeting was held: of this Meeting the most ample notice was given, and by it fifty Parishes were entitled to send Delegates to consider the expediency of a Synod. There were then 59 Clergymen qualified to vote, and 53 Delegates were returned to represent the Laity. After the fullest and most unrestrained discussion of the question, the votes were separately taken and there appeared—

Of the Clergy, for the Synod—37  
against it—9

Of the Laity, for the Synod—28  
against it—10

So that the expediency of the measure was affirmed by a majority of *four-fifths* of the Clergy and *three-fourths* of the Laity. A committee was appointed to frame the Constitution, and the Assembly adjourned until the month of October in the following year. In the meantime several of the unrepresented Parishes

assumed their right, and the number of the Delegates was increased to 61.

On coming together in 1855 the framework of the Constitution which had been carefully considered and prepared, was presented, and with very little alteration adopted unanimously, except the *ninth Rule*, upon which an amendment qualifying the veto of the Bishop was offered, but was negatived, *only three Laymen voting for it*. Whereupon the original motion was put and carried.

28 of the Clergy voting in its favor, and  
Nor one " " against it.  
20 of the Laity voting for, and  
One " " against it.

The Constitution thus adopted by the almost unanimous voice of the Assembly was printed and published previous to the now election for the present year; and I think we are justified in believing that the proceedings were approved by the Church at large, from the fact, that after a more deliberate consideration of the subject, and with a more perfect knowledge of its nature, the number of Delegates to the Assembly has continued to increase, and that no less than 70 are already registered for the present year. Out of 50 Parishes there are now only 12 which have not given their adherence to the Assembly, and 2 of them are the unlimited Districts of the Visiting Missionary, the right of which to be represented might be considered doubtful.

We have purposely omitted Prince Edward's Island in these calculations, because on all such occasions they have been heretofore omitted; but, we are bound in fairness to state, that nearly all the Parishes there have appointed no Delegates, or at least 6 out of the 8 are still left unrepresented.\*

It is a subject of deep regret that when the avowed object is to promote the glory of God and the welfare of His Church, any feelings of bitterness should be entertained, and much more that such feelings should be expressed so as to become a public scandal. Churchmen have a perfect right to entertain diverse opinions upon the Synod, and we are bound to honor a religious and conscientious opposition to it; but no plea can be found for injurious insinuations, and no advantage can be gained by statements which are not true. It is easy to ascribe to the Bishop unworthy motives; to charge the Clergy with a mercenary spirit, and to throw discredit upon the Delegates of the Laity; all this proves nothing, except a want of Christian meekness and charity. But "facts are stubborn things"—and in the present case they lead us to the conclusion, that, whatever be the worth of the Diocesan Assembly and the tendency of its constitution, they have each been adopted and approved by a *decided majority* of all the Parishioners of Nova Scotia. We have now to express an earnest hope that a large number of Members will be present at this Session.

We have abundant reason to pray that the Spirit of God may pervade and direct all who are honorably engaged in this sacred mission; that no efforts may be spared to promote the true welfare of Christ's Church: that all the proceedings of the Assembly may be so marked with discretion, moderation, and piety, as to commend them to those who at present are distrustful of the benefit; that we may live together in peace, and love, and be joined together in one mind and one judgment.

While the Committee of the Welsford Memorial are thinking and disputing about it, a most useful Testimonial has been designed and completed by Dr. William Almon, who has endowed King's College with Ten Preferential Shares in the Water Company, for a Prize to be competed for by Students who have kept their three first terms, and to be given on the Anniversary of the Storming of the Redan, in honor of Col. Welsford, who fell in the van of the attack. This is a most useful Prize, and while it will serve to commemorate the bravery and devotion of his lamented countryman, will stimulate the labours and studies of the youngest aspirants for honor and distinction.

We have great pleasure to notice that two very beautiful Altar Chairs, furnished by Messrs. McEwen of this City, and presented by Captain Wilfred Brett, A. D. C., have been placed in the Chancel of St. Luke's Church. The Chairs are boldly and elegantly carved in British oak, from a chaste gothic design of Mr. McEwen the younger; the seat and back being covered with rich crimson velvet. The congregation of St. Luke's are certainly much indebted to the generous donor, for this great and necessary improvement in the appointments of their Church.

\* In the Island there is a separate Diocesan Church Society, and we believe the Clergy have been formerly excused from attending the Visitation of the Bishop: this may account for the non-attendance at the Assembly, as we have reason to believe that most of them are in favor of Diocesan Synods.

The arrangements for the week of the Meeting of the Clergy are as follows:—On Sunday, Oct. 12, the Annual Sermons will be preached for the Diocesan Church Society at St. Paul's and St. Luke's. On Tuesday 14th, the business Committee of the Diocesan Assembly will meet to prepare business for the Meeting. On Wednesday 15th there will be a general Meeting of Members of the Diocesan Society in the National School Room at 2, and a public Meeting in the Temperance Hall at half-past 7 in the evening. Thursday 16th the Assembly will commence its Session at 10 a. m., and on Friday 17th there will be a Meeting of the Alumni of King's College at 2. On Wednesday 15th, at the 11 o'clock Service the Holy Communion will be celebrated at St. Paul's; and on the 3 following days there will be Morning Prayer in the Bishop's Chapel at half-past 9, and Evening Prayer at a quarter past 5.

We wonder that none of the secular papers have devoted a paragraph to the Circular of the Water Company, who intend to increase the water rate by 50 per cent., in order to cover the expenses of laying an additional 16 inch main from the Lakes to connect with the two 12 inch pipes on the Common. This notification and other regulations, are of so much importance that it would seem necessary to get at an expression of public opinion upon them.— With such an increase of the Water Rates, there can be no doubt, we think, that it is almost time for the citizens to consider the propriety of establishing a rival Water Company.

The City Elections on Wednesday, Oct. 1, resulted in the following Returns:

FOR MAYOR.

ARCHIBALD SCOTT, Esq.

ALDERMEN.

Ward 1—P. DONOHUE, Esq.  
2—S. CALDWELL, Esq.  
3—P. MORRISON, Esq.  
4—T. RING, Esq.  
5—J. L. BARRY, Esq.  
6—JOS. JENNINGS, Esq.

On Thursday last, MATTHEW LOWND, Esq. was elected Alderman for Ward No. 2, in the place of Maurice McIlroath, Esq. resigned.

Mr. George Mackenzie, of New Glasgow, near Pictou, has, it is said, made an offer to the Government of Prince Edward Island, to put an iron Steamer on the line between Charlottetown and Pictou, to run daily, Sundays excepted, and when an English mail arrives at Pictou, to start immediately after arriving from Charlottetown, thus performing two trips on that day. Mr. Mackenzie asks ten years' privilege.

The specimens of Bible translations in our last week's paper, were copied from the *Episcopal Recorder*. In the succeeding No. of that paper we find a note from Mr. Wyokoff, denying that they are the translations of the American Baptist Union.

[COMMUNICATED TO THE CHURCH TIMES.]

The Rev. J. Ambrose begs leave to acknowledge the receipt of £1 5 7½ collected by Miss E. B. Wells, and kindly forwarded by her, for the Conquerall Church. These continued instances of liberality from their fellow Churchmen in Halifax are exceedingly encouraging, and therefore valuable to the poor and struggling congregation at Conquerall, who are consequently making every endeavour to finish the outside of their Church before winter. They have framed, boarded, and shingled it by their own voluntary labour, and the excellence of the work done by these extemporary carpenters, is a convincing proof of the ingenuity of our Nova Scotians. They intend D. V. to finish the outside boarding and battening in a few days, and will also do the painting and sanding, themselves. Thus, with a little help from their fellow members of the Lord's Body, a substantial and really beautiful Church may easily be built by any of our poor rural congregations in the Province.

Contributions to this good object will still be received by Miss Wells, at the Bible and Tract Depository, by Mr. Gossip, at the Church Times Office, or by Mr. Ambrose, who expects D. V. to be in Halifax about the 16th of October.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A coroner's inquest was held at 10 o'clock, A. M., on Tuesday last, on the body of Harry Mett, seaman, on board the flag-ship *Boscawen*, 70, who fell from the bowsprit of said vessel on to the stage underneath, which resulted in instant death. Deceased bore an excellent character on board the *Boscawen*. The jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."—*Chronicle*.

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, who left this port for the Eastward in the steam sloop *Basil*