

the power of confirming the Bishop's nomination or otherwise as it seems proper; and should the Society in any case see fit to withhold its assent from the Bishop's nomination, then, and in that case, and so on, until the Bishop and Society concur, the Bishop be respectfully requested to submit another nominee to the consideration of the Society."

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

The following circular has been addressed by the Bishop of this Diocese to his Clergy:—

"FREDERICTON, 6th November, 1852.

"REV. AND DEAR SIR,—The Clergy of every Deanery in the Diocese have requested me to convene a Diocesan Meeting, to be holden at St. John, at the time of the next general meeting of the Church Society, with a view of considering the Bill lately introduced into the House of Commons by the Right Hon. W. Gladstone, "to explain and amend the Laws relating to the Church in the Colonies." Though I am not the originator of this movement, I do not feel at liberty to refuse a request made apparently by the whole body of the Clergy unanimously, including the Deaneries of St. John, Fredericton, Chatham, Saint Andrews, Kingston, Shediac, and Woodstock.

"With the view of rendering the matter as practised as possible, I propose that each Clergyman should call a meeting of the habitual attendants at his parish church or churches, and take the sense of the persons assembled—being, of course, understood to be *bonâ fide* members of the Church of England—on Mr. Gladstone's Bill, viz., whether it is expedient that the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity, in communion with the Church of England, should be empowered to meet in Diocesan or other Synods, and make regulations for the management of their internal ecclesiastical affairs.

It appears to me that an affirmative or negative answer to this proposition lies at the root of all legislation in the matter; and in the absence of any certainty that Mr. Gladstone's Bill will be brought forward in its present printed form; or if brought forward, that it will be carried, or that the British Government may not have some measure of their own, it seems to me, I confess, to be attempting quite as much as we are competent to discuss, if we endeavor calmly to consider the above-mentioned proposition.

To suppose that a large body of persons (many of whom may never have seen Mr. Gladstone's Bill,) will be able, in a short time, to make themselves masters of a subject which touches on many delicate and difficult questions, is, according to my judgment, unreasonable; and it is obvious that the sense of a few Clergymen and members of the Legal profession, of Fredericton and St. John, would not be the sense of the Church generally.

When, then, the Clergy have called such meetings as I have proposed, and have taken the sense of the several meetings on this simple proposition, the result can be forwarded to me, to lay before the meeting in St. John; or if it be thought proper, two Lay representatives from each Mission, and in St. John, from the several Parishes in that City, (chosen at the meetings proposed by me, by the majority of the persons assembled,) can be instructed to lay before the General Meeting the Resolutions of the parties with whom they are connected. Such Lay representatives should clearly reside in the Mission which they represent, and, in my judgment, ought to be communicants.

The time and place of the Meeting can be fixed at the first General Committee of the Church Society in St. John. I think it right to observe, to prevent misconception, that I have no particular measures which I wish to see adopted by the meeting, and that the meeting is simply called, so far as I understand it, for the purpose of collecting opinions on this one subject. This at once relieves us even from the appearance of any collision with authority, and may serve, I hope, to quiet any doubts or suspicions which may arise.

I am, Rev. and Dear Sir, your faithful friend and brother,
JOHN FREDERICTON.

We subjoin copies of the two Bills introduced into the House of Commons, by Mr. Gladstone:—

[MR. GLADSTONE'S FIRST BILL]

A BILL to relieve Bishops in the Colonies in Communion with the Church of England, and the Clergy and Laity in Communion with them, in respect to legal Doubts or Disabilities affecting the Management of their Church Affairs.

(Note.—The words printed in *Italics*, are proposed to be inserted in Committee.)

WHEREAS doubts exist as to the Rights of the Bishops, Clergy, and Lay persons inhabiting the Colonial Possessions of Her Majesty, and being in communion with the Church of England, in regard to the management of their internal Ecclesiastical affairs: And whereas it is expedient that, under certain restrictions, they should be permitted to make Regulations for the said management by agreement among themselves: Be it declared and enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that,

I. It shall be lawful for the Bishop or Bishops of any Diocese or Dioceses in the colonies enumerated in the Schedule (A) to this Act annexed, or in any other colony which Her Majesty shall, as hereinafter provided, by Order in Council, have declared to fall within the operation of this Act, together with the Clergy and Lay persons being declared Members of the said Church, or being otherwise in communion with such Bishop or Bishops respectively, to meet together from time to time, and at such meeting, by mutual consent, or by a majority of voices of the said Clergy and Laity, severally and respectively, with the assent of the said Bishop, or of a majority of the said Bishops, if more than one, to make all such Regulations as may be held necessary for the better conduct of their Ecclesiastical Affairs, and for the holding of meetings for the said purpose thereafter, any statute, law, or usage of the United Kingdom to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. But it shall not be lawful to impose by any such Regulation any temporal or pecuniary penalty or disability, other than such as may attach to the avoidance of any Ecclesiastical office or Benefice.

III. And no such Regulation shall be binding on any person or persons other than the said Bishop or Bishops, and their Clergy, with the Lay persons residing within the said colonies, and being declared Members of the Church of England, or being otherwise in communion with him or them respectively.

IV. And no such Regulation shall in virtue of this Act be held to have any other legal force or effect than the Regulations, Laws, or Usages of other Churches or Religious Communities in the said Colonies.

V. And no such Regulation made in respect of the nomination of Bishops shall have any force or effect whatsoever, except upon the consent of Her Majesty, signified through one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

VI. And any such Regulation touching the existing relation of the said Bishop, Clergy, and others to the metropolitan see of Canterbury shall be forthwith transmitted by the presiding Bishop or his Deputy, to the Archbishop of the said see, and shall be subject to disallowance by the said Archbishop, under his Hand and Seal, at any time within twelve months from the passing of the said Regulation, or within six months from the receipt thereof by the said Archbishop, but not afterwards.

VII. And no such Regulation shall authorize the Bishop of any Diocese to confirm or consecrate, or to ordain, or to license or institute any person to any see, or to any Pastoral Charge or other Episcopal or Clerical Office, except upon such persons having immediately before taken the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty, and having likewise subscribed the Thirty Nine Articles, and having furthermore declared his unfeigned assent and consent to the Book of Common Prayer.

VIII. And it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, if and when she shall think fit, to declare, by Order in Council, that this Act shall from a day to be named in such Order, be in force within any other one or more of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions besides those contained in the Schedule (A.) to this Act annexed, and this Act shall take effect in the Colony or Colonies so designated accordingly.

[Schedule (A.) to which this Act refers]

Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward's Island, Cape of Good Hope, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Van Diemen's Land, and Western Australia.

[MR. GLADSTONE'S SECOND BILL]

A BILL to explain and amend the Laws relating to the Church in the Colonies.

WHEREAS doubts exist as to the Rights of the Bishops, Clergy, and Lay persons inhabiting the Colonial Possessions of Her Majesty, and being in communion with the Church of England, in regard to the management of their internal Ecclesiastical affairs: And whereas it is expedient that such doubts should be removed, and that, under certain restrictions, they should be suffered to make Regulations for the said management by agreement among themselves: Be it declared and enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual