

E. J. M.

# NOVA SCOTIA Church Chronicle.

Vol. II.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER, 1866.

No. 10.

*"Ad profectum sacrosanctæ matris ecclesiæ."*

## CHURCH INSTITUTION.

No clergyman can have worked long in a parish without having found how very difficult it is, to give the laity an interest in the work of the church: and especially is this true with regard to men; still more especially with regard to young men. Women always have been more ready to take an active interest in the body of Christ. It is not to our present purpose to enquire into the reasons: but we simply state the fact—that from the time when that woman ‘who loved much because much had been forgiven her’, brake the (very precious) alabaster box, of ointment, on HIS head,—anointing his human body, holy women have been found to follow him at all costs, whether to the cross or to the grave—with a love far more enduring than the powers of the sweet spices—with which, they of their poverty, would have embalmed that precious shrine, which held the second person of the Godhead, while HE dwelt, in humanity, upon the earth.

In the days which came immediately after, the apostles oft-times found the faith and love of “women” “devout and honourable”, “which laboured with” them. And even now, what branch of the church is there without a “Florence Nightingale,” or a “Miss Dix”? What parish without its “lady visitors”—what daily service of the church without its female worshippers—what mission in which the womanly “link” that would rejoin poor lost suffering man to HIS Saviour and HIS God is entirely “missing.” Men, have however, less devoted natures—the kindest of men have been most highly praised, when it has been said of them “there is something of the woman in his gentleness.” The occupations of men generally are calculated to offer ready excuses, for their unwillingness, or supposed inability actively to work for Christ. As men grow older and can afford more leisure—or by God’s grace see how truly they owe all to Him, and feel it a privilege if they can but give “even a cup of cold water to a disciple” of the Saviour and Master of us all—then indeed, we find them joining in the work for the members of HIS body, the church, who in his human body “went about doing good.” But young men—as soon as they cease to be amenable to parental control, even when they have been well trained and brought up, in a full view of the solemnity of their baptismal vows—and have received the grace given in confirmation, have become partakers of the blessed eucharist: young men are specially subject to the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil,—for such especially every possible inducement must be held out to remain faithful to the standard of the Cross, under which they are sworn soldiers and servants. Other religious bodies are pretty sensible of this need: and each, believing his own sect to be right, strives to retain in