

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

PASTORAL LETTER

To the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Toronto.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,—

Having been prevented, by necessary absence in England, from holding the Triennial Visitation of my clergy last summer, I have appointed Thursday, the first day of May next (God willing), for the discharge of this important duty.

My clergy will, therefore, be pleased to assemble in the Church of the Holy Trinity, in their full robes, on that day.

The Service to commence at Eleven, A. M.

It has been suggested, and even pressed upon me, by many of the most pious and respectable members of our communion, both lay and clerical, that the Church, now so numerous in Canada West, ought to express her opinion, as a body, on the posture of her secular affairs, when an attempt is again making by her enemies to despoil her of the small remainder of her property, which has been set apart and devoted to sacred purposes during sixty years; and that it is not only her duty to protest against such a manifest breach of public faith, but to take such steps as may seem just and reasonable to avert the same.

Having taken this suggestion into serious consideration and believing it not only founded in wisdom, but, in the

present crisis of the Temporalities of the Church, absolutely necessary, I hereby request every clergyman of my Diocese to invite the members of his mission or congregation, being regular communicants, to select one or two of their number to accompany him to the Visitation.

For the sake of order, it is requested that such lay members be furnished with certificates from their minister or churchwardens that they have been duly appointed, to entitle them to take part in the proceedings which may take place subsequent to the Visitation.

It is expected that such missions or congregations accede to this invitation, will take measures to defray the necessary expenses incurred by their clergymen and representatives in their attendance on this duty; which will be strictly confined to the consideration of the temporal affairs and position of the Church.

I remain, my dear Brethren,

Your affectionate Diocesan,

JOHN TORONTO.

Toronto, April 2, 1851.