

several dioceses, of which there are twenty-one in this province.

The average number of the clergy in each of these dioceses is not less than 650, and the churchwardens probably amount to more than 900, on an average, in each diocese.

In most dioceses, the bishop's visitation takes place only once in three years, the archidiaconal visitation being held in the two intermediate years.

The bishop of a diocese has no regular opportunities of meeting his clergy in any one place; or of collecting the general opinion of the clergy and laity of his diocese; or of communicating his own judgment to them in any one diocesan assembly.

Formerly, as has been already observed, diocesan synods were held by each bishop of the province twice in every year.

The English Reformers recommended in the *Reformatio Legum (de Synodis, v. 109, ed. Cardwell)* that a diocesan Synod should be held by each bishop annually, to which all the clergy of the diocese should be convened, by means of the rural deans, and that such synods should be opened with the Litany and the Holy Communion, and an address from the bishop or archdeacon; and that the synod should consist of the clergy and such of the laity as the bishop might request to remain; and that its deliberations should if, requisite, be continued for several successive days.

Your Committee gratefully recognise the benefits at present arising from the meetings of the churchwardens, together with the clergy, at the visitations of the bishops; and they see in those visitations the basis of arrangements which might, if strengthened and amplified, be made available for the consultation and co-operation of the laity with the clergy of the diocese, under the presidency of the bishop, according to the principles and arrangements already stated in the case of archidiaconal visitations.

But they would further express their earnest desire that, by a subdivision of dioceses, the clergy and laity of every diocese might be enabled to meet under the presidency of their bishop, and be associated with one another, under his paternal authority, in the cathedral church of the diocese, for mutual counsel and edification, and for Christian fellowship in the offices of religion.

Your Committee are aware that many persons, whose motives they respect, are desirous of a more rapid and larger development of lay co-operation than has been recommended in this report.

They do not profess to determine whether such an expansion may not hereafter be necessary. Time and experience will show. If any organic changes are requisite in the present system of lay representation, they are of opinion that suggestions for such changes should come from the laity rather than from the clergy. But they earnestly hope that a fair trial may be made of our existing organization.

They respectfully commend the present subject to the consideration of the archdeacons and rural deans of the province of Canterbury; and they would invite reports stating to the House the results of experiments made by them for the purpose of obtaining lay co-operations of a synodical character.

Your Committee would also recommend that a dutiful representation should be made upon this subject by the Lower House to his Grace the President and their lordships in the Upper House.

In conclusion, they unite in fervent prayer to Almighty God, "by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, that every member of the same, in his vocation and

ministry, may truly and godly serve Him, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Signed, in behalf of the Committee,

CHR. WORDSWORTH, Chairman

CHURCHES & CHAPELS IN IRELAND.—There are 1,397 Established churches in Ireland, 534 Presbyterian, and 132 registered buildings—total 2,062. Compared with the similar table given last year, the above shows an addition of 2 churches, 3 registered Presbyterian meeting-houses, and 6 registered buildings. The registered buildings may be classified thus:—Belonging to Wesleyan Methodists, 66; Reformed Presbyterians, 22; Baptists, 9; Independents, 14; Moravians or United Brethren, 5; not stated, 16.

MARRIAGES IN IRELAND.—From the Seventh Report of the Registrar-General, it appears that, in the year 1856, the total number of marriages in Ireland (exclusive of those solemnised by the Romish clergy, which are not registered) amounted to 9,517 against 8,765 in 1855, 9,426 in 1854, 10,197 in 1853, 9,487 in 1852, and 9,339 in 1851. 5,310 marriages were solemnised according to the rites of the Established Church, and 4,228 were not. The marriages of 1856 were 782, or 8.92 per cent. over the number registered in 1855. Of those married, 5.10 per cent. of the men and 18.18 of the women were minors, 12.26 per cent. were widowers, and 6.97 per cent. widows, 2,589 men and 4,199 women signed with marks, being too illiterate to write their own name on the registers.

STAINED GLASS.—We had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Spence's Glass-Staining establishment, in Notre Dame Street East, yesterday, and were much gratified with a very fine specimen of his beautiful art. It consists of a memorial window about to be placed in the church at Hawkesbury, on the Ottawa. The window is painted, in three divisions, and is adorned with finely-executed scenes from the life of our Saviour, representing His Birth, Baptism, His Agony in the Garden, and the final Sacrifice on the Cross. At the foot of the window is a scroll stating that the window has been erected in memory of the late George Hamilton, Esq., of Hawkesbury Mills, by his three sons. It does infinite credit not only to the skill of Mr. Spence but to the advanced state of the higher branches of the Decorative Arts in Canada.—*Montreal Herald.*

The Bishop of Down and Connor has requested the clergy of the united diocese to make special collections in behalf of the Indian sufferers on Sunday, the 27th instant. Why should not such an appeal be made in every church in the land? No matter how trifling the collection, the aggregate amount would be considerable.

On the Feast day of the Annunciation, March 25, the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Pieter Maritzburg, was opened by the Bishop of Natal, and the Chapter was founded. The Bishop announced that he should be ready, with Divine permission, to consecrate the Church on St. Peter's day, June 29th. The Rev. James Green, M.A., was appointed Dean of the Cathedral, and the Venerable Archdeacon Mackenzie, M.A., the Rev. John David Jenkins, M.A., and the Rev. Henry Callaway, M.A., were appointed Canons. The Bishop then delivered a very striking charge. The east window of the Cathedral is filled with ancient stained glass, the gift of the Rev. W. Sewell, and of Radley College. The building of the Church has been assisted by grants to the amount of £650 from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The whole cost has been about £4500.

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THE REV. J. TRAVERS LEWIS, L.L.D., Classical and Mathematical Prizeman, the Primate's Hebrew Prizeman, Senior Moderator in Ethics and Logic, and Gold Medalist of the University of Trinity College, Dublin, will, D. V., after the Christmas Holidays, receive a limited number of pupils, whom he will prepare for the Universities. Terms made known on application. Parsonage, Brockville, September 21st, 1857.

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