

to prepare their general report for the whole diocese accordingly. And here it may be observed that, although not a matter of such vital importance in a synod as in a congregation, it is nevertheless highly desirable to establish the principle of an absolute majority being required to give effect to any resolution, or, if that cannot be, at least to all the most important ones—such as the adoption of the report, and the appointment of committees. To resume, however; the synod, after receiving their reports, would proceed to consider any applications for clergymen which might be made to it; or, rather, as these would be made at all seasons, and the synod would seldom sit more than a few days each year, would appoint a standing committee, headed by the bishop, to decide upon them, who would require the congregation applying to show that they had reasonable grounds for expecting to be always able to pay at least a certain fixed yearly sum to their minister; this minimum amount to be, say £100 or £150 a year; and also, that one half the salary they proposed to offer for the first year was already collected in advance. On being satisfied upon these points, it would be the duty of the committee to forward to them a list of all the clergymen who had sent in their names to the committee, or an officer appointed by them or by the synod for that purpose, as desirous of employment; and the congregation, or rather its voters, having thereupon met, as above mentioned, should either empower their vestry to choose for them, or select some one themselves to whom the post was to be offered. If the clergyman thus invited to accept it, should decline to do so, they would have to make a second selection, and so on till they had exhausted the list, or obtained a minister. Should no clergyman happen to be disengaged at the time, the locality of the congregation, and the amount of salary offered, could be in like manner set down for the inspection of the clergy, and the committee should from time to time acquaint them if any clergymen were upon their list or not. Either this committee, or a similar one, also under the supervision of the bishop, should be empowered to investigate all charges of improper conduct or teaching, brought against any of the clergy, and should report upon the same to the synod, at its annual meeting, who, after hearing the report, could, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of their whole number, order the offending party to be struck off the roll of the clergy of that diocese;