

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1851.

Prayers were said by the Rev. S. S. Strong, of Bytown, the Rev. John Wilson, of Grafton, reading the Lessons.

The Lord Bishop took the chair.

The names of the lay representatives were called over by Thomas Champion, Esq., acting as Lay Secretary to the Lord Bishop, from the certificates presented the previous day, as follows:

[See List of Clergy and Laity attending the Visitation, published in *The Church paper*.]

The Rev. J. G. Geddes, Clerical Secretary, read the minutes of the proceedings of the previous meeting.

Moved by Sir Allan Napier MacNab, M.P.P. of Hamilton, seconded by the Rev. T. B. Fuller, Rector, Thorold, and Rural Dean of the Niagara Deanery.

1. "That the Bishop, clergy, and laity of the Diocese of Toronto, in Conference assembled, by request of the Lord Bishop, at his Triennial Visitation, holden 1st and 2nd May, 1851, do solemnly protest against the alienation to any secular purpose whatever, of the lands, called Clergy Reserves, originally set apart by Act of 31st George III., cap. 31, and finally sanctioned by 3rd and 4th Victoria, cap. 78, for the maintenance of religion and religious knowledge in the Province; as being opposed to the constitution of the Church of God in every age—at variance with the principles acted upon by all Christian nations—subversive of the recognized rights of British subjects—and in violation of the fidelity and integrity of parliamentary enactments and the decisions of law." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Colonel Kingsmill, of Niagara, seconded by Absolam Shade, Esq., of Galt.

2. "That no class or condition of persons in this Province can be endangered in estate or conscience by the maintenance of this religious property to its original purpose." Carried unanimously.

Moved by the Hon. George S. Boulton, of Cobourg, seconded by the Rev. Michael Harris, A.M., Rector, Perth, and Rural Dean of the Bathurst Deanery.

3. "That the maintenance of this property for its original purpose is necessary; because it has been found from experience, that Religion cannot be generally diffused or permanently supported, in any country, upon the purely Voluntary principle: its maintenance upon this system is proved to be inadequate, even in towns and villages of considerable size; while it is discovered to be wholly impracticable in rural districts,—a large proportion of the inhabitants of which are comparatively poor." Carried unanimously.

Moved by J. H. Hagarty, Esq., of St. James's Church, Toronto, seconded by the Rev. Benjamin Cronyn, M.A., Rector, London, and Rural Dean of the London Deanery.

4. "That in countries where the support of Religion is entirely dependent upon voluntary contributions, it does not maintain its proper influence, but is uniformly found, amongst the great mass of the people, to degenerate and decline; and that religious division and animosity increase—erroneous tenets gain strength and prevalence—and infidelity itself spreads to an unwonted extent." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Geo. Crawford, Esq., of Brockville, seconded by Edmund Deedes, Esq., of Woodstock.

5. "That this meeting regards the maintenance of the Clergy Reserves to religious uses, according to the intentions of a pious Sovereign expressed in various Acts of Parliament of the United Kingdom, to be one of the best boons and blessings which can be secured to this colony,—as tending to insure, with the Divine favour, the propagation of true religion within its bounds, to the end of time." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Edmund Murney, Esq., of Belleville, seconded by the Rev. Henry Patton, Rector, Cornwall, and Rural Dean of the Johnstown Deanery.

6. "That a petition, embodying the views now expressed as the solemn opinion of the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Toronto in conference assembled, be presented to the Provincial Parliament during the approaching Session, and be also transmitted to the Queen and other branches of the Imperial Legislature; and that the Venerable the Archdeacon of Kingston, the Venerable the Archdeacon of York, the Rev. B. Cronyn, the Rev. A. Palmer, the Rev. M. Harris, the Rev. H. Patton, Edmund Deedes, Esq., G. Rykert, Esq., J. H. Hagarty, Esq., the Hon. G. S. Boulton, George Crawford, Esq., and J. A. Henderson, Esq., be a Committee to draft the same subject, subject to the approval of the Lord Bishop of Toronto." Carried unanimously.

Moved by the Rev. A. Palmer, A.B., Rector, Guelph, and Rural Dean of the Gore Deanery, seconded by Thomas C. Dixon, Esq., of London.

7. "That this Meeting is of opinion that for the more effectual exercise of the discipline of the Church, and the more advantageous management of its temporal affairs, it is expedient and desirable to apply to the Crown for the establishment of a Diocesan Synod or Convocation, consisting of the Laity as well as of the Clergy so as best to meet the requirements of the Church in this Diocese; and that the Committee aforesaid do draft a memorial to the Queen, founded upon the observations upon this subject expressed in the Episcopal charge of the Lord Bishop delivered yesterday." Carried unanimously.

Moved by the Rev. E. J. Boswell, Rector, Williamsburgh, seconded by Laurence Lawrason, Esq., of London.

8. "That this meeting desires to express its sense of the paramount duty of connecting religion with secular education; and, in order to carry out this obligation, they deem it to be necessary to petition the Colonial Legislature to permit the establishment of separate Church Schools; and that the assessments ordinarily paid by Churchmen for the support of Common Schools be applied to the maintenance of such as are in connexion with the Church, where such appropriation is practicable and desired; and that the Committee aforesaid be empowered to draft the same." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Sir A. N. MacNab, M.P.P. of Hamilton, seconded by George Crawford, Esq., of Brockville.

"That the thanks of this meeting are justly due, and are hereby most cordially tendered, to the Lord Bishop of Toronto, for the extraordinary degree of zeal and energy which he has manifested in the present critical emergency of the Church in this Diocese; and also for the dignified, impartial, and courteous manner in which his Lordship has presided over our deliberations."

This resolution was put to the meeting by the Venerable Archdeacon Stuart, and was carried by the whole assembly rising to testify their approval.

At the suggestion of the Lord Bishop, it was ordered:

That the thanks of the clergy and laity be presented to the Rev. W. M. Herchmer, M.A., for his eloquent Sermon on the first day of the Visitation; and that, on behalf of the Bishop, the clergy, and the laity, he be very respectfully solicited to publish the said Sermon.

The meeting was adjourned by the Lord Bishop, with his benediction.

JOHN TORONTO.

J. GAMBLE GEDDES, Clerical Secretary.
JAMES BOVELL, Lay Secretary.