

We have received the following Letter from His Lordship the Bishop, which we are permitted to publish:—

Hollis Street, Jan'y. 7th, 1858.

DEAR SIR,

I have received, with much regret, your announcement of your inability to continue longer the publication of the "Church Times," but I am not surprised at your decision, after the statement of accounts which you have submitted to me, whence it appears that, whilst you have been obliged to pay money out of pocket, your Subscribers have in too many instances neglected to pay their just debts to you, and that you do not receive even the nominal support requisite to enable you to conduct the publication satisfactorily. You also repeat, what you have often stated to me, that you have felt disappointed by the Clergy, from whom you hoped to receive frequent contributions, in the shape of Editorials on Theological articles, and that you never proposed continuing the Paper without such aid, inasmuch as you cannot devote to it the time and attention required from an Editor.

Under these circumstances, I cannot ask you to continue the publication, but I feel that its discontinuance will be a serious loss to us; and I believe that the Members of the Church, (not excepting those who have refused to support it,) will find when too late that our Institutions and Societies, and the general interests of the Church, will be injuriously affected by the want of a recognized organ of communication between the different parts of the Diocese. This opinion was expressed by me, in a circular addressed to the Clergy in Jan'y, 1853, of which I enclose you a copy, and which would be as applicable now as it was then.

Moreover I must confess that I do feel ashamed, that the Members of our Church do not support their own paper, whilst each of the other Denominations in the Province has its own organ, maintained as I understand by the united exertions of both Ministers and people. It is strange that, whilst we have at the lowest estimate upwards of 5000 heads of Families in our Communion, less than 500 are willing to contribute 10s. per annum towards the support of their Newspaper, and I cannot yet altogether abandon the hope that a sufficient number may come forward to enable you, after a brief interval, to commence a new publication with a fair prospect of success.

At present I must content myself with expressing my high sense of your persevering endeavors to promote the interests of our Church, and of the sacrifices which you have made in order, if possible, to sustain what I do believe to be an important aid to her work. This has been the more praiseworthy, because the state of your health has frequently been such as to render any additional anxiety or labor a heavy burden to you; and indeed I have often felt astonished that you have continued so long to struggle on against the many difficulties which you have had to encounter. I hope those who have been the benefit of your labors, receiving the "Church Times" every week, will hasten to acknowledge their obligations, in the most satisfactory way, by remitting the arrears, of which the accumulation has caused you so much inconvenience, and that there will be no list of defaulters when you finally close your accounts so far as relates to this publication.

Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

H. NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. Wm. Gossip,  
Editor of "The Church Times."

The following is the Circular alluded to above:—

HALIFAX, Jan'y 17, 1853.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

When the *Church Times* was changed in form, and placed in the hands of a new Editor, I intended to issue a Circular to the Clergy, calling upon them to make renewed exertions on its behalf; but I deferred in the hope that they would of themselves do this, without any special Communication from me. In some few Parishes I gladly acknowledge that my expectations have been realized, but in several I am sorry to say that an examination of the List of Subscribers leads me to the conclusion that apathy and neglect have prevailed; and I desire now to impress upon you the importance of maintaining our Church Paper, which without increased support must fail, as the losses of the Publishers have been great, while the Editor labors without any remuneration.

That it is not exactly what you would wish it to be, is very probable, but I beg you to consider that a Diocesan Paper must not represent any party, and if it is to have a general circulation, must avoid giving reasonable cause of offence to any. The question is not, whether it is as useful as it might be, but rather what would be the effect of its cessation? I am persuaded that the interests of the Church would be seriously affected by the want of a recognized organ, through which the knowledge of proceedings in any portion of the Diocese may be imparted to the whole, and communion thus maintained between all the Parishes, many of which would be otherwise iso-

lated. The Reports of local meetings of the D.O.S., and the exertions of the people in any Parish, have a tendency to stimulate others, and I fear that the funds of the Society would sensibly diminish if we were deprived of this auxiliary.

In these respects, no other Paper, however good in itself can supply the place of our own, and its general tendency is decidedly to promote religion and piety, while controversy, mischievous in itself, and altogether unsuitable for the columns of a Newspaper, is excluded. It is thus a useful assistant to the Clergy, conveying sound instruction in their absence, and supplying interesting and profitable extracts to those who have few good Books, and would otherwise be tempted to read publications of a different character. You may render it more interesting to your own people by communicating to the Editor local occurrences, and may enforce your own teaching by obtaining the insertion from time to time, of extracts bearing upon subjects to which you desire to call their attention, or applicable to their particular circumstances. It also contains all the information that is requisite with respect to the Markets, Shipping, and other secular matters, both at home and abroad, and therefore every Churchman should take notice, even if he can only afford one Paper.

The increase of Subscribers in Halifax has, through the exertions of the Clergy been large; and I have now to request you without delay to make a systematic personal appeal to all the Members of your Congregation to take our Church Paper, in preference to any other, subscribing individually, when possible, or in conjunction with others—a subscription of half a dollar each from four persons being sufficient to secure a Copy for the year. It appears to be necessary also to remind all the Subscribers, that their Subscriptions ought properly to be paid in advance, and that the Publisher has to pay a large sum out of pocket every week. You will please to send the names to Mr. Gossip as soon as they are obtained, for the list of additional numbers from each Parish will probably be published in a few weeks.

I believe that the Ministers of the various Denominations act as Agents for their respective Papers, in their several Districts, and I hope that you will not object to render this assistance. If however, for any reason you feel that you cannot do this with good effect, I trust that you will find, and name to the Publisher, some well qualified person willing to undertake the somewhat troublesome duties of such an office for the sake of the Church.

OBITUARY.

DIED at his residence in Halifax, on Sunday last, after a long illness, the Honble. SIMON BRADSTREET ROBIE, aged 87 years. The deceased gentleman was one of the able men of a now almost extinct generation, who under the old system of Provincial Government, when the Executive Council exercised legislative powers, and was not directly responsible to the people, controlled the destinies of Nova Scotia. Of high standing as a lawyer, he had been successively Speaker of the Assembly, Member of the Legislative and Executive Councils, Solicitor General, and Master of the Rolls, which last high and responsible office he held for a number of years, to the entire satisfaction of the country. Admonished perhaps by approaching old age, but long before increasing infirmities had incapacitated him for the faithful discharge of his duties, he resigned the Judgeship of the Chancery or Rolls Court with all its emoluments, and retired from public life; to which however he was recalled again, upon the introduction of the new form of Government styled Responsible, when at the earnest entreaty of all parties he for a time assumed the onerous duties of President of the new Legislative Council, and gave his assistance in perfecting and establishing the system. This temporary occupation of office was resigned, like as the former one of honor and emolument, without regret; and for the last twelve years Mr. Robie had lived in that retirement which seems to have been congenial to his disposition, enjoying the society of his old friends, dispensing to the poor of his bounty, and doing numerous acts of kindness to those in whom he took an interest, or for whom he professed a regard. His death will leave a blank in Provincial society, and be regretted by many a child of want who has been the recipient of his charitable favors, not the less effective that they were bestowed unostentatiously, and with a desire to escape the public observation. He was ever ready to lend a helping hand in any good work to which his attention was specially directed. The Church had in him a friend whose attachment was formed upon a conscientious principle. He assisted Bishop Inglis at the formation of the Diocesan Church Society; and up to the time of his death was one of the annual contributors to its funds—Old and full of days and honor, and able to look back upon a well spent life, the last enemy was welcomed as a friend; and desiring to be at rest, yet resigned to the will of his Heavenly Father, he fell asleep in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, and was attended to the Cemetery by the Venerable Chief Justice, the Bar, a number of the principal inhabitants, and a large concourse of all classes, who had assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to departed worth.

The closing of Exeter Hall to the public worship of Clergymen of the Established Church, has induced the opening of the nave of Westminster Abbey for divine service to the working classes, and the agitation on the subject will no doubt cause the opening of St. Paul's Cathedral for similar services. A great deal has been said with reference to the Rev. Mr. Edouart's opposition to the services of the Church of England in Exeter Hall, an unconsecrated building in the parish of which he is the Rector. It was an act not cordially approved, so far as we can see, by any party. There can be no doubt, however, that it formed part of the design by this proceeding to direct public attention to the use of the Cathedrals, &c. for such purposes, and in so far at least Mr. Edouart's movement has been of considerable service.

The Lord Bishop purposes holding an Ordination in Halifax on the 2nd Sunday in Lent, Feb. 28th, and desires Candidates to send in their names immediately.

The Lord Bishop intends holding Confirmations in Halifax in March next, and throughout the Western division of the Diocese in May and June.

The *Royal Gazette*, under date of Dec. 31, contains the official announcement of the appointment of Samuel P. Fairbanks, Esq., to be the Commissioner of Crown Lands in this Province. If a rather tardy act of justice has thus been done to this gentleman, we are sure that the Province at large will be the gainer by the devotion of the active energies of Mr. Fairbanks, to an important department of public business.

Professor Hensley (King's College) delivered an instructive lecture on Astronomy before the Young Men's Christian Association on Tuesday evening.

A few weeks since, we noticed the re-formation of the Harmonic Society, with a confident anticipation that it would afford much rational entertainment to our community and to strangers during the winter. We trust they will soon be enabled to give a public specimen of the musical talent that exists in Halifax, by announcing a concert of vocal and instrumental music, which we are sure would be largely patronized.

DEATH OF THE HONBLE. S. B. ROBIE.

MEETING OF THE BENCH AND BAR.

A meeting of the Bench and Bar was held at the Law Library, on Tuesday the 5th instant, in consequence of the death of this venerable man, whose name will long be remembered, not only on account of his extended professional and political career, but for the many acts of warm-hearted benevolence, which graced his private life. The meeting was very unanimously attended. In the absence of his Lordship the Chief Justice, who was unable to attend, His Honor Judge Bliss was called to the chair. Judge Bliss remarked, that when he himself was a student at law, Mr. Robie was occupying the post of Solicitor General—and that the professional life of the deceased had commenced long before he (Judge Bliss) had been born. After touching upon the more prominent portions of the public and professional life of the departed, he concluded his remarks by dwelling very warmly upon the private virtues that adorned his daily life—and stated that one of the last acts of his life was his making provision for the wants of some poor persons who had for many years been the objects of his bounty. The following resolutions, moved by Judge Wilkins, seconded by Judge Sowers, and responded to by the Hon. William Young and others, were then unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this meeting has heard with deep regret of the death of the Honble. Simon Bradstreet Robie—long an ornament of this Bar, and for many years its oldest member, and formerly Master of the Rolls of the Court of Chancery in this Province. That though owing to the great age to which he had attained, and his retirement long since from professional and official duties, some may have a less personal acquaintance with his eminent character and qualities; yet many can still with admiration call to mind, and all, from his well earned and high reputation, acknowledge, the learning, abilities and zeal—the strong good sense—the clear mind—the sound judgment—the spright and honorable bearing, and the spotless integrity by which he was ever distinguished at the Bar—on the Bench—in the Legislature, and in private life.

Resolved, That as a mark of their regard and esteem, the Bench and Bar will attend the funeral of the deceased on Thursday next, the 7th instant, and will wear crapes for one month.

Resolved, That these resolutions be communicated to the affected and mourning family and friends of the deceased—with the sincere sympathy of the Bench and Bar under their bereavement.

The members of the Bench and Bar will meet at the Law Library, this day, (Thursday,) at a quarter before three o'clock, to attend the funeral of the deceased.

WILLIAM HOWE,  
Sec'y. of the Bar Society.