

APPENDIX.

A COMPENDIUM, or Summary Statement of the Constitution, Bye Laws, Objects, Purposes and Proceedings of the Diocesan Church Society of New Brunswick, 1853.

The Diocesan Church Society of New Brunswick held its first meeting at Fredericton, February 9, 1837. Previous to that day there had been several Meetings of the Clergy of the Province, the first of them in 1832, in which a very decided opinion had been repeatedly expressed in favour of "an active union among the Members of the Church, both lay and clerical, for the promotion of such objects as the Church, wherever it exists, must find essential to its welfare and utility." On September 8th, 1836, they again assembled at Fredericton, on the invitation of the Archdeacon, for the consideration of a plan proposed by the late respected Bishop of Nova Scotia, for the formation of "a Church Society in each of the Archdeaconries of his Diocese, to embrace all the objects of the Societies in England for the Propagation of the Gospel and for Promoting Christian Knowledge." At this Meeting the Clergy formed the Society recommended by the Bishop, having agreed upon a Constitution, which was ratified and confirmed at the first meeting of the Society.

The following is a brief description of the composition of the Society, and of the different Committees, by whose agency its work is carried on.

I. THE SOCIETY.

The Society (by Rule III. of its Constitution) is composed of persons presumed to be members of the United Church of England and Ireland, who at any one time have paid a sum of not less than ten pounds to the Society, and by reason of such payment, are constituted Life Members; and also of such as pay to it annually any sum, however small. This sum (by Resolution 1838) is declared to be due at the Annual Meeting. The Society (by Rule XII.) holds an Anniversary Meeting at Fredericton and St. John alternately,—at the latter place on the Thursday after the third Tuesday in January, and at the former place on the Thursday after the second Tuesday in February. At this meeting the election of the officers of the Society takes place. The officers elected annually (by Rule IV.) are "one or more Treasurers, one or more Secretaries, and two Auditors of Accounts." The Executive Committee is also elected at this time: and all motions are disposed of for effecting alterations in the Constitution. It is necessary (by Rule XVIII.) that notice of any motion for effecting such alteration should be given at the General Meeting previous to the one at which such motion is to be made; and no article of the Constitution can be altered, except with the concurrence of two thirds of the Members present. And (by Rule II.) every alteration in the Constitution, before it becomes of any force, must be sanctioned and confirmed by the Bishop, by writing under his hand.

Special General Meetings are called by the Bishop, as President, upon authority given to him, for that purpose, by the Society, at an Anniversary Meeting.

II. THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The General Committee of the Society is composed of Clergy and Lay Deputies. The Lay Deputies consist (by Rule XIV.) of two Members of the Society elected by each Local Committee, at the annual Meeting of such Committee. These Clergymen and Lay Deputies (by Rule XV.) meet in General Committee on the two days (or more if need be) immediately preceding the Anniversary Meeting. In this General Committee, all applications for aid out of the funds of the Society are considered and disposed of; and all grants of money made; all accounts passed; and in general all business transacted, in any way connected with the administration of the funds of the Society.

The powers of the Lay Deputies (by Resolution 1837) are verified by a Certificate under the hand of the Chairman or Secretary of the Committee deputing, in form following, viz:—"This is to certify that A. B. and C. D. were elected at the Annual Meeting of the ——— Committee of the Diocesan Church Society, as Deputies from that Committee, under the authority of Article XIV. of the Constitution. (Signed) E. F., Chairman or Secretary." Dated ——— 18—.

In all cases of irregularity in the form, substance or mode of execution of the certificate, a vote of the General Committee is requisite to give effect to the appointment.

III. THE LOCAL COMMITTEES.

The Local Committees consist of all Members of the Society, residing in the several Parishes throughout the Diocese. They hold respectively an annual meeting (by Rule XIII.) on some convenient day previous to the Anniversary Meeting of the Society, at which annual meeting they elect two Lay Deputies from that Committee to the General Committee; and determine what objects they will recommend to the special consideration of the General Committee, in the appropriation of the funds of the Society,—it being competent (by Rule IX.) to any Member of the Society to limit his subscription to any one or more of the Society's objects, which he may be most anxious to promote.