

The History of Ecclesiastical affairs in the Diocese of Newfoundland, during the last ten years, is so replete with unseemly disputes between the Bishop and Laity—with squabbles between Ministers and their Congregations—with attempts at tyrannical compulsion on the one hand, and now feeble, now determined, efforts at resistance on the other,—with strifes in families,—with divisions in communities: and with heart-burnings or sorrowful regrets in the breasts of all, that the thought of reviewing these distressing events fills the mind with the most painful sensations, the more so, as they present a strong contrast to the peace and harmony enjoyed in previous years.

True, this remarkable period was ushered in with a dawn beaming brightly with cheering hopes of peace and good-will, and with favourable prospects of great prosperity to the Church; for the Lord Bishop, on his appointment to the Diocese in 1844, announced that he was "coming in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ." This announcement created lively satisfaction, and, on his arrival in July of the same year, his Lordship was met with cordial addresses welcoming him to the country, one of which was presented to his Lordship by a large deputation from the members of his flock in St. John's, greeting him with so much warmth and kindness, that he could not forbear expressing his extreme surprise and gratification. At the same time his Lordship manifested such a degree of humility, meekness, and concension, that all were charmed with him and congratulated themselves on their good fortune in having such a Bishop.

But this fair, promising dawn was of brief duration, and speedily were the hopes that had been excited converted into forebodings of a dark and gloomy aspect; for within less than three months from the day of his landing, the sound of "axes and hammers" was heard within the sacred walls of the old Church, (endeared to the old families by a thousand fond associations), "breaking down the carved work thereof," and changing the arrangement and appearance of the interior.—With such haste did his Lordship proceed to outrage the