

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE.

The Committee submit the following report:—

With reference to the trial of a Bishop, the Committee would observe that the Provincial Synod has adopted a Canon for this purpose, and that it is out of the power of this Synod to deal with the subject. They would suggest that the above named Canon, No. 4 of the Provincial Synod, be printed with the records of this Synod.

With reference to the discipline of the Clergy, the Committee recommend that the present Regulations be amended so as to read as follows:

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, it is expedient to define the mode in which the power of the Bishop shall be exercised: We, the Bishop, Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity of the Diocese of Nova Scotia, have agreed upon the following Rules, to be observed in order to secure a fair and impartial tribunal for the trial of any Clergyman who may hereafter be charged with any offence rendering him liable to Ecclesiastical censure.

I.—In every case of any Clerk in Holy Orders who may be charged with any offence against the laws ecclesiastical, or concerning whom there may exist scandal or evil report, the Bishop of the Diocese within which the offence is alleged as reported to have been committed, shall, upon the application of seven male communicants of the Parish in which the accused resided, or may if he shall think fit, of his own mere motion, issue a Commission under his hand and seal to five Presbyters of not less than seven years' standing, and the Commissioners so appointed, or any three of them, shall inquire into the truth of the charges alleged against the party accused, as set forth in their commission, notice of the time and place of such inquiry having been given to the party accused, and to the party, if any, upon whose application or complaint the commission may have been issued, not less than thirty days before the time appointed for the commencement of the inquiry.

And, in the course of such inquiry, the Commissioners shall receive all such evidence as may be tendered to them, whether for or against the party accused.

And the said Commissioners shall report in writing, under the hands of at least three of them, whether in the opinion of the majority of those present, there be or be not sufficient *prima facie* ground for instituting further proceedings; which report shall be accompanied by a copy of the evidence on which it is founded.

II. And in all cases when the Commissioners shall have reported that there is *prima facie* ground for further proceedings, the Bishop, with the written consent of the party accused, may pronounce judgement without further proceedings.

III. If the Commissioners shall report that there is *prima facie* ground for further proceedings, and the party accused shall not consent to have judgment pronounced as aforesaid, then, but not otherwise, three

Clerks in Holy Orders, nominated as hereafter, and specially appointed.

IV. In every case has been found, and shall appear to the Clergyman accused while such charge is to be served on the of the charge, or a from performing any until the Bishop shall

V. At each regular consisting of

and of Lay

VI. The Clerical Court as hereafter to

VII.—Notice of trial shall be delivered to interested party by the charge or charge

The defendant and challenge alternately number be reduced, three Presbyters, and Laymen.

But if the defendant expiration of twenty—the Bishop shall him aforesaid from the B

Upon receipt of parties as above pro notify to the said parties shall not be less than same.

VIII. At the trial one of the Lay assess present, with the Bishop's instructions shall be in all ordinary practice of and examination, the tion of the Bishop or in questions of doctrine shall then be pronounced

IX. If the party trial, after having received be heard and determined to be sufficient cause

X. Advocates shall parties, provided they