

regard to the manner in which the Diaconate should be exercised. He expressed a hope that the latter part of the paragraph now under discussion would be omitted altogether.

CANON WORDSWORTH said it was frequently of the utmost advantage to obtain the services of a gentleman who would confine himself solely to matters belonging to the Diaconate, and instanced as a case in point the advantages derived by a parish in Westminster from the services rendered by a Deacon who came from St. Mark's, and remained without taking Priest's orders for five years.

SIR GEORGE PRESTON had considered the whole matter carefully, and thought that it would be better to keep the clause as it stood. There might be many reasons—youth and inexperience, for instance—which might induce a man to remain in Deacon's orders longer than the ordinary period.

ARCHDEACON DENISON was unwilling to interfere with the report of the committee, but, with all deference and respect to them, he was bound to confess that he was unable to understand the recommendations they had made, inasmuch as the body of the report did not agree with the instructions given to the committee.

The Rev. J. VINCENT was desirous of saying a few words in confirmation of what had been expressed by the Archdeacon of St. Asaph. It was not from choice that deacons were put in charge of parishes in Wales, but from necessity; he spoke chiefly of the diocese of Bangor. When such was the case the deacon was assisted by some neighbouring clergyman in those special duties belonging to the priestly office. It was at present more difficult to obtain curates in Wales, and under these circumstances he should greatly object to using any more stringent term in the clause of the report under consideration than the word "encouraged." He thought it far better that no recommendation should be made which would in this matter tend to limit the discretionary action of the Welsh Bishops; he hoped that the representation they might make with regard to the peculiar circumstances of the Church in the Principality would have due weight with their right rev. brethren, the other members of the Episcopal Bench.

ARCHDEACON WICKHAM said that during the time he had been connected with the archdeaconry of St. Asaph, it had upon several occasions been found necessary to place a parish in the sole charge of a deacon, and he should be sorry if by any act of that house the bishop were prevented from sanctioning a similar step if necessary hereafter.

The Rev. J. VINCENT knew of one case now in the diocese of Bangor, where a deacon was under the condition of remaining five years before taking priest's orders.

The Rev. W. B. THOMAS confirmed the remarks of Mr. Vincent as to the extreme inconvenience which would result in Wales if the bishops were restricted from placing deacons in the sole charge of parishes. In the diocese of St. David's, in several instances, if such a course had not been adopted a parish must have been without a clergyman altogether. He strongly objected to the introduction of any clause which would tie the hands of the bishop.

The Rev. T. STACEY (Proctor for Llandaff) begged to confirm the statement made by his rev. friend the Proctor of St. David's, relative to the extended period of the Diaconate required in certain cases in the diocese of Llandaff. There was one instance within his own knowledge, in a parish with which he was himself till lately intimately connected, in which the deacon was compelled to serve in that office for five years—

but he was not, of course, in sole charge, as there was a curate there besides in Priest's orders; and, as far as he (Mr. Stacey) heard and believed, the appointment was successful, and led to no inconvenience. He thought it desirable, especially in Wales, that such ministerial assistants should be largely multiplied.

After some further discussion, ARCHDEACON DENISON moved the omission of the third paragraph of the report. The motion was rejected without a division.

The Rev. J. FENDALL then moved that the word "required" should be substituted for the word "encouraged." Canon Selwyn thought that to require a person to continue in the office of deacon for five years would interfere with the rights of patrons. Archdeacon Randall thought no patron had a right to appoint a person who was not in Priest's orders or was not competent to receive Priest's orders. At the same time he was of opinion that the words "retain the order of deacon" would meet all objections. The Rev. J. Fendall accepted the words suggested by Archdeacon Randall, which were put and agreed to.

DR. JEBB proposed the omission of the words "wherever practicable," but the amendment was rejected without a division.

DR. JEBB then proposed the omission of the words "incumbents" and the substitution of "Priests."—Agreed to.

CANON SELWYN moved the addition of the following words to the paragraph.—"We strongly recommend that in no case shall the sole charge of a parish be committed to a deacon except where justified by the strong necessity of the circumstances."

The motion was rejected; and the clause as amended, and after a transposition suggested by Canon Woodgate, was then agreed to.

DR. JELF having read the fourth paragraph of the report,

The Rev. H. MACKENZIE said he had opposed this clause in committee, he now opposed it; and he was placed in the painful position of appealing to the house against the decision of a body with which he had been connected. But so convinced was he of the importance of the principal involved, that he should not be doing his duty if he neglected to renew the proposition which he had made to the committee. The principle involved in the paragraph under discussion was, that the third and lowest order of the church was not capable of any extension at the present time—that there were serious obstacles in the way of such an extension; and reasons for admitting these obstacles were given in the report; with which he could not concur. He thought the reasons were insufficient, and the conclusion at which the committee arrived erroneous. He had an amendment to propose upon the whole of the clauses relating to this point, and wished to see them expunged from the report. The first obstacle stated was the indelible character of the Diaconate. But he submitted that this constituted no difficulty at all. The character of the Diaconate was undoubtedly indelible, but he had such faith in the power of the church as exhibited in her own development of that subordinate rank, that he should be content to see the system in full operation. The indelible character had been no impediment to many hard-working and faithful clergymen who entered holy orders with no more prospect than a curacy, or more emolument than £100 a year; and he did not see that there could be any more difficulty when it was placed in the hands of a class humbler in origin and less ambitious in their general views. Another difficulty stated was the amount of literary

qualification as required by the Ordinal and the canon, because the persons whose services were sought could not for the most part be admitted unless the strictness of the examination were relaxed. It was true that by the method he proposed the classical standard for the Diaconate would be lowered; but he begged the house to remember that it was only for the Diaconate. The general learning of the clergy would be elevated rather than depressed; while a full knowledge of the English Scriptures would be required in every case. He believed a man wanting the qualifications for the classical examination, need not be a whit less holy or capable of carrying the Word of God to his brethren; but he thought it necessary that every order should be equally well educated in Scriptural knowledge; and that those who ministered amongst the poorest required an education as high in that respect as those who ministered amongst the richest and most learned. Then it was said that, "inasmuch as it would be practical, impossible to have different degrees of qualification for the same order, there is too much reason to fear that the whole standard of qualifications for admission into the Christian ministry might ultimately be lowered." But they had a practical illustration of the possibility of having different degrees of qualification for the same order, in the experience of the army and navy, and of clerks in merchants' or lawyers' offices. In all these cases they found that the qualifications were very different of men who were obliged to enter upon their employment in a subordinate order, through which some passed, while others remained stationary. In the Continental military services every individual was bound to serve for a time as a private soldier; those who were the sons of gentlemen did not expect to remain in that position, but, if they followed the military profession, to rise to high command. In our own service a man occasionally obtained, by valour or creditable service, the rank of commissioned officer, but it seldom happened that that person ever rose above the rank of a subaltern. But that did not interfere with the brotherly co-operation with him of others who were in a different position. They stepped side by side in march, and they fought side by side in battle; and he saw no reason why there should be any difficulty in the church militant in this respect. They found men who were in expectation of inheriting large fortunes, doing duty in a merchant's office side by side with the clerks who had no such expectations, and who had little prospect of rising beyond the position of a clerk; and they had seen men who hoped to rise to a high position in the legal profession sitting in a lawyer's office, and going through details which the humblest clerk was called upon to attend to.

(To be continued.)

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Rev. F. G. E., Colchester, (vols. 7 & 8;) Rev. W. L., Cartwright, (on account of vol. 7.)
 TO END OF VOL. 9.—G. W. B., Ottawa; Rev. G. F., Metcalf; Rev. G. W. W., Camden; Rev. G. W. G., North Gower, (to No 22, vol 10;) Rev. A. D., Port Dalhousie.

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