

sonage, with suitable out houses, is once erected, and the same are placed in the possession of the Incumbent in good repair, he may be reasonably expected to keep them in the same condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted. But should any additions be found necessary, any new fences be required to secure the premises, or any thing new be found expedient to the preservation of the building, as new roofing, painting &c., the cost of all these and all similar improvements should be borne by the Parish.

It may, moreover, sometimes happen that when a parsonage house is erected, the incumbent may be desirous of making alterations, additions or improvements in order to render the premises more comfortable and convenient, but which the parishioners may not deem absolutely necessary, or which they may not be able, from the peculiar circumstances of the Parish, to accomplish, while they would be prepared to admit that the proposed alterations would be desirable, if they could be effected, and it may so happen that the incumbent could advance, or procure, on his own responsibility, the means for effecting the same, your committee would suggest that in all cases the Incumbent may, in conjunction with the churchwardens, employ a suitable architect or mechanic, and endeavour to ascertain the probable amount of such alterations, improvements or additions, and if approved of by the Churchwardens, they may sanction such expenditure, the amount of which, certified by the bills of the contractors, shall be regarded as a debt due by the Parish to the Incumbent in case of his removal, or to his family in the event of his death, only that ten per cent. of such outlay shall be deducted annually from such debt, for every year that the benefit of the improvements may have been enjoyed by such Incumbent or his family; to whom also, in the event of the Incumbent's death, the balance of the outlay shall be paid by the parishioners, in annual payments, of not less than twenty per cent. of the sum originally so borrowed or advanced, until the whole of the balance be repaid. If, however, the parish shall possess an endowment, yielding to the Incumbent not less than £200 per annum, besides the salary assigned by the parishioners, the committee would in such case recommend that when the addition or improvement as aforesaid does not exceed one year's proceeds of such endowment, the expenditure shall be borne by the Incumbent himself; but if the expenses shall exceed the amount of one year's proceeds of such endowment, then the expenditure above that sum shall become a debt, due by the successor of the Incumbent, if it be not liquidated as aforesaid by the annual deduction of ten per cent. for every year's enjoyment of the same; and the balance to be paid by the successor or successors to his predecessor, or to the family of the same, in the same manner as by the churchwardens in the former case.

Moreover, as your Committee believe that no Incumbent should be allowed to sell the timber or quarries of stone upon any glebe land, and appropriate the proceeds of the same to his own private benefit, but, that the proceeds should be expended for the benefit of the Incumbent and his successors; and whereas by the law of England the timber on the glebe lands may be sold, and the proceeds thereof be applied towards the purchasing of a house, out buildings, yard, garden, or lands to become the parsonage house, and glebe land of the Parish, your Committee would recommend a similar course in this Diocese, extending its action however to the repairs, improvements and additions of or to parsonage houses, and out-houses, as may be judged needful by the Incumbent and churchwardens, acting for the

Your Committee have ventured to suggest, for the consideration of Synod, certain rules and regulations embodying the foregoing views, but they would also suggest, that any further action in the premises should be taken in connexion with the Diocesan Church Society, as the erection and maintenance of Parsonages forms one of the important objects of that Society; from its funds aid will no doubt be generally sought; and as being an incorporated body, it, and not the Synod, is competent to hold deeds of the sites of parsonage houses.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY PATTON, *Chairman.*

RULES AND REGULATIONS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON BUILDING OF PARSONAGES, REPAIRS AND DILAPIDATIONS OF SAME.

1. That it shall be the recognised duty of every Parish or Mission, where no Parsonage at present exists, to erect, as soon as possible, a suitable parsonage, with out-houses, for the accommodation of the Clergyman; and that until such buildings are erected, it shall be the duty of the Parish or Mission to rent a suitable residence, that the Clergyman may enjoy the same, free of charge, and independent of any sum that may be assigned for his salary.

2. That in the event of the Parish seeking aid from the Church Society towards the erection of their Parsonage, such aid shall not be granted until the Society is satisfied that the proposed new Parsonage will be one suited to the position of the Parish: that therefore the plans of the proposed building shall be previously submitted to the inspection of the Bishop of the Diocese, or of a disinterested committee appointed by his Lordship, consisting of the Archdeacon or Rural Dean, and of one or two neighbouring clergymen and laymen, to be named by the Bishop; and the approbation of the Bishop or of said committee, as the case may be, shall be a sufficient guarantee to the Society, that aid may with propriety be extended to said Parish.

3. That when the Parsonage and out-houses are erected and finished, or when, in the event of a change of incumbency, they are put in the possession of the clergyman in a state of good repair, it shall then be the duty of the clergyman to keep and maintain the same in as good repair and condition, ordinary wear and tear of the same excepted. And if the Incumbent shall, by wilful negligence, by any act of commission or omission, suffer the said buildings to go out of repair, so that they are in danger of being seriously damaged thereby, he shall be held responsible for the same; and it shall therefore be the duty of the Churchwardens to point out such dilapidations to the Incumbent, and request him to provide a remedy for the same, and shall he decline or neglect to repair the same, the churchwardens may after a reasonable space, employ a suitable mechanic or mechanics to execute the necessary repairs, and the certified expense thereof may deduct from the Clergyman's annual salary.

4. Should however any extensive improvements or repairs become necessary from the lapse of time, such as new roofings, external painting, of new fences to protect the premises, the expense of these, and all similar improvements or repairs, shall be borne by the Parish. And it shall be the duty of the Clergyman when such repairs are required, to lay a detailed statement of the same, with an approximate estimate of the expense, before the usual Easter meeting of vestry, or before a vestry meeting specially convened for the purpose; and should the members of vestry sanction the same, the churchwardens shall forthwith proceed to effect the necessary repairs, providing for the expense thereof, from the funds of the church by parochial subscriptions or by any other mode

determined upon by the vestry. But should the vestry decline to sanction the necessary repairs and the expenso of the same, or should the churchwardens neglect to accomplish the required repairs (when sanctioned) within a reasonable period, the clergyman may then appeal to the Bishop, who may appoint a disinterested Committee as aforesaid (Rule 2) to inspect the premises and report upon the necessity of the proposed alterations or repairs; and, as far as sanctioned by their report, the Incumbent shall have authority to accomplish the same by means of money borrowed for the purpose, the amount of which shall be a debt due by the Parish, and which, together with the interest on the same, shall be discharged within a limited time named by the committee aforesaid; and in default of payment being made at the time specified, the Incumbent shall notify the same to the Bishop, who shall call upon the Parish to make good the deficiency within a specified period.

5. Should an Incumbent, as may sometimes happen, desire to make additions, alterations, or improvements, which neither he nor the Churchwardens may regard as absolute necessities, but which nevertheless the vestry (after being consulted) may not object to, provided the Incumbent will in the mean time procure the means for effecting the same, it shall and may in all such cases be lawful for the Incumbent in conjunction with the Churchwardens, to employ a suitable architect or mechanic to estimate the expense of such improvements or additions; and the Churchwardens may, if they approve of the same, sanction such expenditures, the amount of which, certified by the bills and receipts of the contractors, shall be regarded as a debt due by the Parish to the Incumbent, in the event of his removal, or to his family in the event of his death; provided that ten per cent. of such outlay, together with the interest of the money borrowed, shall be deducted from such debt for every year that the benefit of the said improvements shall have been enjoyed by such incumbent, or by his family, to whom the balance of the outlay shall be paid by the Parish, in annual payments of not less than twenty per cent. of the sum originally so borrowed or advanced, together with the interest due on such balance; and no part of such debt shall become a burden upon the successor of the incumbent who so advanced or borrowed the money as aforesaid. If however the Parish should have an endowment of not less than £200 per annum, independent of the salary assigned by the Parish; and should the expense of the aforesaid additions or improvements not exceed one year's proceeds of such endowment, the expenditure shall then be borne by the Incumbent desiring to make the same; but should the expenditure sanctioned as above exceed the full amount of one year's income from the endowment, then the expenditure above that sum shall become a debt due by the successor of the Incumbent, and to be paid in the same manner as the former case, if not liquidated as aforesaid by the annual deduction of ten per cent. for every year's enjoyment of the same.

6. If a Clergyman shall subscribe liberally towards the erection of a Parsonage and out-houses, or towards the cost of additions thereto, and yet should not live to occupy or enjoy the benefits of the same for at least the space of one year, such subscriptions, less ten per cent., shall be returned to his family by the Parish.

7. The Parsonage being the property of the Parish, the loss of it by fire would prove a serious calamity to the parishioners; it shall therefore be the duty of the Churchwardens to keep the buildings constantly insured in some respectable insurance office.

8. If there be pine, elm, cedar, or other marketable timber upon any glebe or glebes, or