

CHARGE.

MY REVEREND BRETHREN,—

Nearly four years have passed away since I had an opportunity of addressing you collectively; for at the usual period of holding my Visitation, last summer, I was absent in England, on matters of the utmost importance to the future progress and well-being of the Church in this Diocese.

INTRODUCTION.

It is with grateful acknowledgements, therefore, to that merciful Providence which has preserved me during a long and arduous journey, that I find myself again among my brethren, and able to enjoy the privilege of once more laying before them a condensed notice of what has taken place, in the Colony and in the mother country, affecting our communion, since we last met, as well as a brief review of our present condition and future prospects.

Indeed this interval of four years has been more pregnant with events vitally affecting our Church, both at home and abroad, in her spiritual and temporal interests, than any previous period of her history.

In truth, the pressure from without, and her unhappy divisions within, have been such as to try men's principles, and call up the most serious reflections. Especially has it been a period to convince those who preside over her affairs of their manifold deficiencies, their need of greater watchfulness, and of the growing necessity of still abler and better men, more fitted by long experience, sound learning, and keener spiritual discernment, to enable them to meet with success her increasing difficulties.