

The Church Guardian.

Upholds the Doctrines and Rubrics of the Prayer Book.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Eph. vi. 24.
"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude 3.

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Consecration of Rev. Charles Hamilton, M.A., as Bishop of Niagara.

Friday, the first day of May, the Festival of SS. Philip and James, and the day appointed for the Consecration of the Right Rev. Charles Hamilton, as Bishop of Niagara, was a red letter day in the history of the Diocese of Fredericton. So far as the weather was concerned the day was all that could be wished for. The services began at 8 o'clock a.m. with matins. After which, at 10 o'clock, the Bishop and Clergy assembled in the vestry and marched in procession to the western door, and, as the bells chimed 10.30, entered the crowded Cathedral, the Deacons leading the way, after whom followed the marshals, the Revs. J. H. Talbot and F. W. Vroom and the Clergy of the Diocese in order of seniority. Then came Dr. Mockridge, representing the Diocese of Niagara, followed by the Bishop-elect, and his Chaplain, the Rev. T. E. Dowling; followed by the Bishop Coadjutor, of Fredericton, the Bishop of Toronto and his Chaplain, the Rev. W. Green; the Bishop of Maine and his Chaplain, Rev. Canon Ketchum; the Bishop of Quebec and his Chaplain, Rev. M. Williams; the Bishop of Nova Scotia and his Chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Forsyth; then the Metropolitan, bearing his mitre, and attended by his Chaplains, the Revs. Sub-Dean Alexander (who bore the cross) and Canon Medley. About fifty Clergy were present. The processional hymn was "Onward Christian Soldiers." After which the Consecration service was proceeded with according to the prescribed form; the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia reading the Epistle, and the Bishop of Maine the Gospel. After the recitation of the Nicene Creed, the anthem "How lovely are the messengers that preach us the Gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words," was sung; this being followed by a most impressive sermon by the Lord Bishop of Quebec, the chosen preacher. The address to the Bishop-elect was most touching and full of words of sympathy and brotherly love.

The Bishop of Quebec, preceded by the Deacons and his Chaplain, having returned to his sedile, and the Metropolitan having taken his seat in the Episcopal chair, placed in the centre of the Sanctuary, the Bishops of Nova Scotia and Quebec then advanced to the communion rails to meet the Bishop-elect (vested in his Rochet) and leading him, the Bishop of Nova Scotia, by the right hand, and the Bishop of Quebec by the left, presented him to the Metropolitan, the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, as the Senior Bishop, saying the words of presentation.

The Metropolitan then called for the certificate of election, which at his request was read by the Rev. Dr. Mockridge, Rector of the Cathedral, Hamilton; after which the usual oath of due and canonical obedience to the Metropolitan was administered. The form of Consecration was then continued, as in the Prayer Book, the act of Consecration being joined in by the Metropolitan and the Bishops of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Toronto and Maine, and the Bishop Coadjutor of Fredericton. The Communion service followed; the Bishops of Maine, Nova Scotia, Toronto, and the newly Consecrated Bishop of Niagara distributing the elements to the faithful.

This most solemn and interesting service was then concluded with the prescribed prayers, and the Metropolitan having pronounced the Benediction, the *Nunc Dimittis* was sung and the procession returned to the vestry in the same order as at the opening of the service.

After the usual prayer in the vestry, the following address was presented to the Bishop of Niagara, on behalf of the Clergy present, the Rev. Mr. Alexander acting as spokesman:—

To the Right Reverend
CHARLES HAMILTON, M.A.,
Lord Bishop of Niagara.

MY LORD,

We, the Clergy present in the Cathedral Church of Christ Church, Fredericton, on the occasion of your Consecration to the office of a Bishop in the Church of God, on the Festival of St. Philip and St. James, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, desire to approach your Lordship with the expression of our sincere congratulations, and assurance of our cordial affection and esteem.

Your works of piety, the zeal and devotion which have marked your life in the past as a Parish Priest; the high positions of responsibility and trust, to which, by your Diocesan you have from time to time, been assigned; your long occupation of the important office of Clerical Secretary to the Synod of this ecclesiastical Province, the recognition of that Synod of your administrative talent, in twice electing you its Prolocutor, are testimonies to your character and merit which we have long known, which command our deep respect, and which point to you as one worthy of the high station in the Church, to which, in the Providence of God, you are called.

While, therefore, we extend to your Lordship our congratulations on your advancement to so high a dignity, we unite also in humbly thanking God for the bestowal upon His people of the wisdom and guidance which determined your election thereto; and that He will be pleased to continue you in your holy office, giving you the needed strength for the right discharge of its great and responsible duties, will ever be our earnest prayer.

Fredericton, Fest. of St. Philip and
St. James, May 1, 1885.

To this the Bishop feelingly replied as follows:—
To the Reverend the Clergy present in the Cathedral of Christ Church, Fredericton, on the Fest. of St. Philip and St. James. A.D. 1885.

MY REVEREND BRETHREN,

The esteem and cordial affection of which you so kindly assure me, the confidence which you so generously express in the gifts entrusted to me by God for the sacred and responsible office now committed to me by this Church, and the prayers which you propose to offer up on my behalf are exceedingly precious to me. I prize them more than I can tell you, coming to me from so many of my brethren in the ministry, immediately after the solemn service of Consecration, when my heart is trembling with the sense of my unworthiness and unfitness, they move me deeply. I thank you for them and for the courage and hope with which they will inspire me.

CHAS. NIAGARA.

Fredericton, 1st May, 1885.

The offertory, which amounted to forty-seven dollars, was devoted to the general purposes of the Diocesan Church Society.

At 4 o'clock p.m. the concluding service of the day was said; thus ended a day never to be forgotten by all those who witnessed and took part in the solemn services of the Festival. And we feel sure that many and fervent were the prayers offered by those present that the blessing of the Holy and undivided Trinity might rest abundantly upon the new Bishop and his work in the Diocese of Niagara. It is needless to add that Bishop Hamilton has endeared himself to those who have met him here, and he will carry with him to his new field of labor their best wishes and heartiest congratulations.

Throughout the Diocese of Niagara, by request of the Bishop-elect, special celebrations of the Holy Communion and special services had been held on the day of Consecration, and the first official act of Bishop Hamilton was the forwarding of the following telegram to one of the leading Clergy of his new Diocese:—

To the Rev. W. B. Curran,
Hamilton, Ontario.

"Charles, Bishop of Niagara, gratefully appreciates the sympathy and prayers of the Churchmen of Hamilton during the hours of his Consecration, which he humbly hopes will redound to the glory of God and the good of His Church."

But not alone in the Diocese of Niagara was the Bishop remembered in prayer before God. We have reason to know that in many places in other Dioceses by friends individually and by congregations collectively, supplications were made in his behalf; and whilst we most heartily congratulate Bishop Hamilton on his elevation to the Episcopate, we cannot fail to recognize the immense responsibility—the *terrible* responsibility apart from divine aid and grace—of the promises which he, like others in the Episcopate, has made. Reading these, as contained in the Consecration service, calmly and thoughtfully, they strike one as appalling, and the need of supplication from all the faithful for every one about to assume these cannot be doubted, for who is sufficient for these things? But believing fully in the reality of the declaration "Receive the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a Bishop in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands," we cannot doubt that strength and grace has been given, and with all confidence and sincerity can and do wish Bishop Hamilton "God speed" in his high and holy and responsible work.

SERMON,

PREACHED BY THE LORD BISHOP OF QUEBEC, AT
THE CONSECRATION OF REV. CHARLES
HAMILTON AS BISHOP OF
NIAGARA.

"According to the grace of God which was given me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid a foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let each man take heed how he buildeth thereon. For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid—which is Jesus Christ."—I Cor. iii-10.

We find the germ of this thought in our Lord's words, when He says to Peter, "Upon this rock will I build My Church." And in St. Peter's first Epistle there is a partial development of the thought: "Ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house." It is however to the writings of St. Paul that we must look for its complete development. By him it is that "edification" has