

parish or mission, who shall fail to duly keep the registers and make the entries, therein of the acts of civil status, to wit, baptisms, marriages and burials, shall be held to have committed an offence against the Canon of Discipline of the Diocese, and be subject to trial thereunder.

Enregistration by Laymen.—A question having been raised as to the validity of Registration by Laymen or students of acts of civil status, the following opinions were read:

REGISTERS AND REGISTRATION OF ACTS OF CIVIL STATUS.

These are required by, and the provisions applicable thereto are set forth in, the second title of the Code of Civil Procedure, articles 39 to 78, explained by article 5499 of the Revised Statutes of the province of Quebec.

Article 42, C.C., provides that acts of civil status are to be inscribed in two registers of the same tenor kept for each Roman Catholic parish church, each Protestant church or congregation, or other religious community entitled by law to keep such registers.

Article 44, prescribes that the registers are kept by the Rector, or other priest or minister having charge of the churches, congregations, or religious communities, or by any other officer entitled so to do.

Article 5499 of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec is explanatory of article 42 as to what is included in the term Protestant churches or congregations, and declares that they comprise 'all churches and congregations in communion with the Church of England or Scotland, and the several religious communities or denominations in the province mentioned in the special acts concerning them, and the priests or ministers thereof, who may validly solemnize marriage, and may obtain and keep registers of civil status, subject to the provisions of the said acts with reference to each of them respectively.' This explanation is important in connection with the question of who may or may not sign acts of baptism, marriage and burial.

Article 46 of the C.C. requires that acts of civil status "as soon as they are made" shall be inscribed in the two registers in successive order, and without blanks; and the special provisions under the several titles of acts of births, acts of marriage, acts of burial, requires that these several acts shall be signed in both registers, amongst others "by the officer officiating" (acts of baptism), "by the officer who solemnizes marriage" (acts of marriage), "by the person performing the burial service" (acts of burial).

From the terms of the explaining article 5,499, above referred to, and independently of the rules of the Church itself, as to who are capable of performing such acts as baptism, marriage and burial, it would seem to follow indubitably that the civil law regards the person referred to under these several expressions as a priest of the Church of England, or a minister of one of the religious bodies other than the Church of England referred to therein. But the question has been raised whether a catechist or lay reader in the Church of England has authority to keep registers for acts of civil status and to enter therein and to sign such acts, if employed in any parish or mission. It would seem, as above said, that under the civil law, as explained, he would have no such right, and any such act of his would be invalid.

Can a catechist, layman, or lay reader be regarded in any sense as such officer [or minister, if you will] under the law and practice of the Church of England?

1. It is indisputable that, though the Church of England does recognize lay baptism in cases of extreme necessity only, her form of service and the fact that she requires the presentation of the child so baptized in the Church and its reception there "by the minister of the parish" and the distinct reference to the officer as a priest, would militate against any such pre-

tension as that a lay reader, catechist or student could make and sign acts of baptism.

2. As to acts of marriage, there would seem to be no shadow of opening for a discussion as to these. The Church has ever recognized that marriage must be performed by one in Orders, and therefore no questions can arise in this connection as to the action by a layman.

3. As to Acts of Burial, though no distinct declaration in the Burial service, as in the Baptismal office, for emergency is to be found, yet it is only necessary to refer to the Order for the Burial of the dead to see that throughout that service the presence of one in Orders, as the officer performing the act is clearly and definitely recognized. Throughout the service the reference is to one in Priest's Orders, and without entering upon the question whether a Deacon can validly say portions of the service, there can be no reasonable question that a layman is not qualified so to act; therefore he could not validly make entries of acts of civil status in the registers nor sign the same.

L. H. DAVIDSON.

Montreal, 12th June, 1891.

I am decidedly of opinion that no layman, has a right to record an Act of baptism, or of marriage, or of burial, in the register kept by law for that purpose.

STRACHAN BETHUNE,
Chancellor.

It was then resolved—That His Lordship be requested to appoint a committee to consider the question of the registers of baptism, marriage and burial in missions in charge of students, as to such points as these—in whose name they shall be made out, in whose church they shall remain and how far can students make entries therein and report to the Synod; and that the opinion just read, of Dr. Davidson, and concurred in by Chancellor Bethune, be printed for the information of the Church in this Diocese, pending the report of the committee.

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

TRINITY COLLEGE.—The annual meeting of Convocation took place on the afternoon of the 26th ult., when the Convocation Hall was filled to its utmost capacity with relatives of students and friends of the College, to witness the conferring of degrees and other honors. The Hon. G. W. Allan, Senator, Chancellor of the Institution presided and there were also present with him on the platform, Ven. Archdeacon Jones, Revs. Professor Clark, Osborne, Nichol, Short, Caswell, Langtry, Lloyd, Broughall, Cayley, and others; and of the laity Chief Justice Haggerty, E. Martin, Q.C., R. T. Walkem, Q.C., and others. The gold medal for the year was taken by Mr. W. R. Herbert. The degree of B.A. was conferred upon twelve persons, amongst whom were two ladies, Miss M. Elliott and Miss M. C. Nation. Miss A. M. M. Graham obtained the gold medal in the second examination in Music. One M. B. was conferred, namely, upon Mr. J. T. R. Kertland. Three B. C. L. degrees were conferred, one upon G. H. Muirhead, who also took the gold medal, and the others on Messrs. Clement and Gault. Ten degrees of M.D.C.M. were granted to students who had passed the examinations, amongst whom was Miss J. Thomas; and *ad eundem* degrees were conferred upon James Ogilvie, L. R. C. S. Edin of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and on Wesley Robinson of McGill, Montreal. The degree of Lic. Th. was conferred upon Mr. F. Heathcote and the Rev. J. H. Ross; and that of D.D. upon the Rev. Alfred Osborne of Markham. The degree of D.C.L. was conferred in *honoris causa* on the Rev. Professor Clark, Edward Martin, Q.C., Chancellor of the Diocese of Niagara, and R. T. Walkem, Q.C., Chancellor of the Diocese of Ontario. Besides these degrees seventy-seven had been conferred during the year. The Matriculants in Arts number 63,

amongst which the names of several ladies appear; in Law, eleven; music, fourteen.

Miss Amy M. Graham, of Fort Erie, who received the gold medal in the second year examination for the degree of Bachelor of Music, is the youngest candidate who has yet obtained this distinction. She was a pupil of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, and is resident at Fort Erie. She obtained the highest number of marks possible on one of the papers, and was the first upon the list of both English and Canadian candidates.

The Chancellor in his address briefly sketched the work which had been done at Trinity College during the year, and referred to the completion of the new wing of the College, and also to the successful raising of the amount necessary to claim the important grants from the S. P. C. K., which would enable the corporation to add to the number and increase the teaching staff of the College in the fall.

In the new wing there were 22 additional rooms for students besides new lecture rooms, laboratory and Professors' rooms. The amount raised in order to obtain the grants referred to was some \$17,000, and this had been secured mainly through the vigorous canvass made by Rev. Prof. Body. He announced the resignation of the Rev. Prof. Lloyd, who had accepted the Head Mastership of Trinity College School, Port Hope, vacant through the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Bethune, who for 21 years had filled that important position. In closing his address the Chancellor referred to the country's loss through the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, and expressed the sympathy of the corporation and of those present for Lady Macdonald in her bereavement. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese closed the proceedings with the benediction.

BISHOP STRACHAN SCHOOL.—The closing exercises of this admirable institution for the education of girls, took place on the 25th and 26th ult., under the presidency of the Rev. Dr. Davies, Canon Damoulin, Rector of St. James, presenting the prizes to the successful candidates and delivering a short address. On Thursday and Friday evening a concert was given by the pupils, at which an excellent programme of music was rendered. The school has had a very successful year, and will doubtless re-open in September filled to its utmost capacity.

DIOCESE OF HURON.

SYNOD NOTES.—*Sunday Schools.*—117 parishes reported, and it appeared that there were 480 male, and 1,285 female teachers, or a total of 1,766; Sunday School scholars, 17,906, being 7,796 boys and 10,096 girls. There had been an increase of pupils of 957, and of 52 teachers during the year; 211 Sunday Schools had reported with an attendance of 17,906, the average being 12,726. It also appeared that the number of scholars over fourteen years of age, and Bible class members was 3,444; indicating that the older scholars still continue in the Sunday Schools or Bible classes to a considerable extent. The Sunday Schools raised during the year and expended in their own work \$5,980 60; for other parochial work \$798 33, and for extra parochial purposes \$1,625.20, or a total of \$8,414.13.

The contributions to Missions from the S.S. showed an increase over last year of \$195.61. Christ Church S.S., Chatham, heading the list with \$206. This school numbers 532, and is the largest single school in the Diocese. The Memorial Church parish, London, has two Sunday Schools numbering together 687.

Church Consolidation.—The proposal submitted by the Winnipeg Conference engaged the attention of Synod for one afternoon and was strongly supported by Mr. Chas. Jenkins, of Petrolia, who, seconded by Mr. Imlach, moved the adoption of the scheme. Finally,