

least one sermon on each of these great departments of missionary labour.

3d. That in view of the present aspect of affairs in the Eastern world, it be referred to the Board of Missions to take into consideration the propriety of establishing missionary operations in the Ottoman Empire, and take such action therein as may be deemed necessary.

The first and second resolutions were adopted. On the third one being called up—

Rev. Dr. Stevens begged leave to state that the subject of establishing missions in the Eastern world was brought before the Committee, and it was felt by them that in the providence of God, the time had come when they should take the initiatory step, though nothing further was done than to send out inquirers to ascertain the exact state of the ground. The recent war in the Crimea had produced such a change in the disposition of the Sultan of Turkey, that he had given what was called the Hatti-sherif of an enlargement of the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of Turkey. This Hatti-sherif was the imperial grant of certain rights and privileges to the inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire which they had never before had, and might be well called the Magna Charta of Religious freedom. He would read, in order to give members some idea of it, one or two of its provisions:—

In the towns, small boroughs, and villages, where different sects are mingled together, each community inhabiting a distinct quarter shall, by conforming to the above-mentioned ordinances, have equal power to repair and improve its churches, its hospitals, its schools, and its cemeteries. When there is the question of the erection of new buildings, the necessary authority must be asked for, through the medium of the Patriarch and heads of communities, from my Sublime Porte, which will pronounce a sovereign decision according to that authority, except in the case of administrative obstacles. The intervention of the administrative authority in all measures of this nature will be entirely gratuitous. My Sublime Porte will take energetic measures to insure to each sect, whatever be the number of its adherents, entire freedom in the exercise of its religion.

Every distinction or designation tending to make any class whatever of the subjects of my empire inferior to another class, on account of their religion, language or race, shall be forever effaced from the administrative protocol. The laws shall be put in force against the use of any injurious or offensive term, either among private individuals or on the part of the authorities.

As all forms of religion are and shall be freely professed in my dominions, no subject of my empire shall be hindered in the exercise of the religion that he professes, nor shall he in any way annoyed on this account. No one shall be compelled to change their religion.

These, with many other provisions of this remarkable paper, had opened the Ottoman Empire to the efforts and labours of Christian missionaries. When other bodies were making strenuous efforts to occupy that promising field which God in His Providence had so remarkably thrown open, he felt that it was due to them that this Convention should ask the attention of the Board of Missions to this field, that it might take such measures as would enable this Church to be represented there. They sent out a missionary on a former occasion, but that mission proved a failure. That was, however, no reason why they should not attempt it again. Circumstances existed then which do not now exist. There were obstacles then which were now removed. They know that all the sympathies of the American, Assyrian, and Nestorian Churches were liturgical and Episcopal, and that, therefore, this Church could labour among them more effectually than any other body of Christians; except of course the English Church, which is our Mother Church. He hoped, therefore, that this simple resolution of enquiry requesting the Board of Missions to take the subject into consideration would be passed.

The resolution was agreed to.

Rev. Dr. Hawks said he observed that in the report reference was made to the point which had arisen between the English Bishop in China, and our Bishop, on the subject of jurisdiction. In the early part of the session he believed some step was taken on the part of this House, and he should be glad to know of the Chairman what action had taken place in our Church with reference to the adjustment of that question.

Rev. Dr. Stevens stated that in the year 1834, he thought, the Episcopal Church sent out its first missionaries to China. One of these missionaries was present, whom he had the pleasure of meeting in China in 1835 or '6. They returned to this country finding it impossible then to establish a mission there.

In the year 1837 the present Missionary Bishop went out to China. He returned to this country in 1844, and in the session of the General Convention that year, in this city, was nominated as a Missionary Bishop having jurisdiction in China. Immediate steps were taken to secure him such rights and jurisdiction as would not conflict with any missionaries that might be there sent out by the Church Missionary Society, or by the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. In the year 1849, Hong Kong was ceded to the English, and the Home Council immediately appointed the Revd. George Smith, who had been a missionary there, as Bishop of that place, with the title of Bishop of Victoria. Then came up a question as to jurisdiction. A Committee on the part of the House of Bishops, consisting of Bishops Doane, Whittingham, and Lee, was appointed to correspond with the Archbishop of Canterbury on this subject. Their correspondence availed nothing. Bishop McIlvaine, going to England a year or two afterwards, was requested to see His Grace of Canterbury and adjust the matter, if possible, with him. He found it impossible, however, to come to any decision. Another Committee was raised at the last General Convention—a Committee of three Bishops was appointed under the following resolution:—

Resolved, (the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies concurring,) That the subject of the conflict of jurisdiction between the Missionary Bishops of this Church in China, and that of the Bishop of Victoria, be referred to a Committee of three Bishops, to be named by the House of Bishops, to act in the recess of the General Convention, in conference with the Foreign Committee of the Board of Missions, and to hold such correspondence as they may deem suitable to the case with His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Church Missionary Society in England, and report such correspondence to the next General Convention.

He held in his hand that correspondence, and if it was the pleasure of the house, he would read it, otherwise he would state its substance. [State it.] The Committee on the part of the Bishops consisted of Bishops Doane, Lee, and Whitehouse. On the 26th of June, 1855, they addressed a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, reciting what had previously been done, and calling his attention to what was not done by his predecessor, Archbishop Howley, and requesting him to take such measures as would enable them to settle this vexed question of jurisdiction. The question was in every way respectful, and covered the whole ground. As far as they could, in their intercourse with the Archbishop of Canterbury, they avoided any allusion to the Church Missionary Society, which was also a party in the premises. The Archbishop of Canterbury replied in a letter, which stated that no injurious rivalry had existed between the two Bishops, that although the two Churches were closely allied in doctrine and fellowship, there would be an incongruity in placing members of the English Church under the jurisdiction of another. The sphere of the Bishop of Victoria was proscribed by an order of the Council, having the force of law, directing all persons in holy orders of the United Church of England and Ireland being within the dominions of the Emperor of China, to be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the See and Bishop of Victoria. The letters patent by which he was appointed, especially instanced Canton, Amoy, Fouchong, Ning-ho, and Shanghai, as requiring spiritual superintendence. Any alteration in his jurisdiction could not be made but by the authority of the State. The result of such an application for an alteration must be very problematical, and would lead to greater inconveniences than had hitherto occurred, or were likely to occur, from the co-existence of two Bishops in China. The Bishop was gratified that nothing had arisen to render the existing inconvenience more than theoretical.

Ecclesiastical.

DRAFT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR "TRIAL OF CLERGY."

Whereas in the Royal Letters Patent of His Majesty George III., constituting the See of Nova Scotia, "full power and authority" was granted to the Bishop of the said See and his Successors, "by him or themselves, or by his or their sufficient Commissary or Commissaries, by him or them to be substituted and named, to visit all Rectors, Curates, Ministers and Incumbents of all the Churches within the said Diocese, wherein Divine service shall be celebrated according to the rites and Liturgy of the Church of England, and all Priests and Deacons in Holy Orders of the Church of England resident in their said Diocese, with all and all manner of jurisdiction, power, and coercion Ecclesiastical that may be requisite in the premises; also to call before him or them, or his or their Commissary or Commissaries, at such

competent days, hours, and places whatsoever, when, and as often, as to him or them, or his or their Commissary or Commissaries shall seem meet and convenient, the aforesaid Rectors, Curates, Ministers, Incumbents, Priests, or Deacons in Holy Orders of the Church of England, or any of them, and to enquire, by witnesses, to be sworn in due form of law, by him or them, or his or their commissary or commissaries, and by all other lawful ways and means by which the same may, by law, be best and most effectually done, as well concerning their morals as their behaviour in their said Offices and Stations, respectively, as also to administer all such oaths as are accustomed to be taken in Ecclesiastical Courts; and to punish and correct the aforesaid Rectors, Curates, Ministers, Incumbents, Priests, and Deacons, in Holy Orders of the Church of England, according to their demerits, whether by removal, deprivation, suspension, or other such Ecclesiastical censure or correction as they may be liable to, according to the Canons and Laws Ecclesiastical aforesaid.

And whereas it is expedient to define the mode in which such power shall be exercised, We the Bishop, Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity, of the said Diocese, have agreed upon the following rules, (of which the principles have been adopted from the English Act, 3 & 4 Vict., Cap. 86), to be observed, in order to secure a fair and impartial tribunal for the trial of any clergyman who may hereafter be charged with any offence, rendering him liable to Ecclesiastical censure.

1. Whenever the Bishop may determine to institute proceedings against any Clerk in Holy Orders, who may be charged with any offence against the Laws Ecclesiastical, or concerning whom there may exist scandal, or evil report, he shall issue a commission under his hand and seal to five Presbyters of not less than seven years' standing, and the commissioners so appointed, or any three of them, shall enquire into the truth of the charges alleged against the party accused, as set forth in their commission, notice of the time and place of such enquiry having been given to the party accused, and to the party, if any, upon whose application or complaint the commission may have been issued, not less than thirty days before the time appointed for the commencement of the enquiry. And in the course of such enquiry, the commissioners shall receive all such evidence as may be tendered to them, whether for, or against the party accused. And the said commissioners shall report in writing, under the hands of at least three of them, whether, in the opinion of the majority of those present, there be or be not sufficient *prima facie* ground for instituting further proceedings, which Report shall be accompanied by a copy of the evidence on which it is founded.

2. And in all cases, when the Commissioners shall have reported that there is *prima facie* ground for further proceedings, the Bishop, with the written consent of the party accused, and of the complainant, if any, may pronounce judgment without further proceedings.

3. If the Commissioners shall report that there is *prima facie* ground for further proceedings, and either the party accused, or the party complaining, (if any) shall not consent to have judgment pronounced as aforesaid, then, but not otherwise, three Clerks in Holy Orders and three Laymen shall be nominated, as hereafter provided, to sit with the Bishop, or his Commissary, specially appointed for this purpose, to hear the cause.

4. Notice of the Bishop's intention to institute further proceedings shall be delivered to the person accused, together with a copy of the charge or charges to be preferred, and the names of nine Presbyters of not less than seven years standing, and of nine lay Members of the Diocesan Assembly, from which the accused shall select three Presbyters and three Laymen, and shall notify his selection to the Bishop within 14 days after the receipt of said notice and list of names. But if the accused party shall refuse or neglect to make such selection then, at the expiration of 21 days from the day of receipt of list of names by the accused, the Bishop may himself select three Presbyters and three Laymen as aforesaid. And upon receipt of notice of the selection made by the party accused, or after his own selection, as the case may be, the Bishop shall notify to the said party the place and day appointed for his trial, which shall be not less than 21 days after he shall have received notice of the same.

5. At the trial there shall be at the least two of the Clerical and one of the lay Assessors, or in questions of doctrine three of the Clergy present, with the Bishop or his commissary; and the course of proceeding shall be in all respects, as far as possible, in conformity with the ordinary practice of Courts of Justice. And if after full investigation and exami-