

P. E. ISLAND.—The Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Church Society—was held on Wednesday evening, 20th Feb. in St. Paul's schoolroom, and was well attended. Proceedings commenced at 7½ o'clock. His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, Patron of the Society, presiding. After singing a hymn, the appointed prayers were offered up by the Rector of Charlottetown. His Excellency then addressed the meeting to the following effect:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am very glad to have another opportunity of meeting you here, and still more so to find that the Committee are able to lay before us a very satisfactory report of our Church for the past year. There is generally so much matter for discussion, and we are usually so much hurried towards the end of our meeting, that I do not intend to claim your attention for many moments. Referring to some remarks, which will be shortly brought to your notice in the Report for the year, concerning the late legal decisions in England, and their bearing on the relation between the Mother Church and that of the Colony, I would point out to you what grounds for thankfulness we have that, whatever legal distinctions there may be, nothing can ever deprive our Church of that bond of union she inherits through the Apostles from the Divine authority of the Lord Himself.

It was a matter of gratification to me, as well as I trust, to all I address, to receive the Bishop last summer. I rejoice to think that he was favourably impressed with the progress made in this portion of his Diocese, and I hope that his efforts amongst us will not have been without beneficial results. I am glad to have this public opportunity of expressing the sympathy I felt for the Bishop in the annoyances to which he was recently subjected.

In conclusion, I would venture to impress upon you that, as members of the Church, it is our duty, individually, to spread to the utmost her principles and attach her adherents to her; it is our duty to exhibit great toleration for the different shades of opinion existing in the Church, marking what is good rather than what we disapprove in them; and it is particularly our duty to exercise great liberality in our contributions to church purposes. I am far from ignoring the extent to which this liberality now exists, but I would urge you not to rest content merely with what you have done, but to give still more largely from the stores of which God has constituted you the stewards.

The Secretary, Rev. D. B. Parther, then read the Report for the past year, and a statement of the Finances was made by the Treasurer. In the Report, allusion was made to the position which the Church, in these Colonies, stands towards the Mother Church in England; and that, according to the recent decision in England, "there is no Church of England out of England," the Church being, in these Provinces, a voluntary association, in no better or no worse position than that of those denominations by which she is surrounded, yet it is not meant that because the members of such a church constitute a voluntary association that they may adopt any doctrines and ordinances they please; but as professing to be members of the Church of England, they are, by implied agreement, bound by all her doctrines, rites, and ordinances, except when limited by local statutes. This separation, it is admitted, would be approved and welcomed by many. The Church, here, then, being an independent society, as a matter of course, it must have some form of Government; the most satisfactory would be that of a Diocesan Synod similar to that in Nova Scotia.

Notices.

CONFIRMATIONS will be held in Halifax, as follows:—The Cathedral, April 7th, at 3 P.M. St. Paul's, April 10th, at 4 P.M. St. George's, April 11, at 11 A.M. Garrison Chapel, April 14th, at 6 P.M.

Lent.

WE are very glad to learn that in the city additional opportunities are afforded for the devout observance of the Lenten Season; the Clergy being fully employed in preparing their