

Laodicea (? 314) laid down—"Quod non sit tur-
bis concedendum electionem falere eorum qui altaris
ministerio sunt applicandi"—prohibiting this action
of the people.

REV. JOHN OWEN RUGGLES.

The awfully sudden death of Rev. J. O. Ruggles, late diocesan secretary for Nova Scotia, has cast a gloom over the city of Halifax, of which for the past five or six years he has been a well known and respected resident, and indeed over the whole diocese. On Sunday, September 22nd, Mr. Ruggles took duty at Windsor for Archdeacon Weston-Jones, absent at the Provincial Synod. The services consisted of an early celebration of the Holy Communion at eight a.m., matins at eleven a.m., and evensong at seven p.m. While robing in the vestry for the evening service Mr. Ruggles was suddenly seized with a violent pain in the stomach, accompanied with vomiting. Rev. Dr. Bowman, of Windsor, who was assisting in the services, immediately procured help, and the sufferer was carried into the rectory hard by the church. For several hours the vomiting continued, but by the efforts of the doctor, who had been hastily summoned, it subsided and finally ceased. Good hopes were now aroused that he would pull through, when a sudden syncope of the heart took place, and he passed away before anything could be done to effectually relieve him. His wife, who had been summoned by telegraph from Halifax, arrived too late to see him in life, his death taking place at 5 a.m. on Monday. The subject of this brief memoir was born 55 years ago in the historic town of Annapolis Royal. He belonged to one of the oldest and best-known families of Nova Scotia. His grandfather, General Ruggles, was a distinguished United Empire Loyalist, and settled in Annapolis over one hundred years ago. His mother also belonged to an old Nova Scotian family of the name of Owen, settled in Lunenburg, and originally from England. In his early days Mr. Ruggles occupied the position of Principal of the Digby Grammar School, and early in the sixties, after taking the usual course at King's College, and, of course, taking his degree, he was ordained deacon and priest by the late Bishop Binney. For about twenty-five years he laboured in the diocese with signal success, holding the parishes of St. Margaret's Bay and Kentville. At the latter place and at Wolfville, which was then an outstation of Kentville, he did an admirable work, admitting no less than 225 Baptists into the Church from time to time, and virtually rebuilding the church at Kentville. While in Kentville he made hosts of personal friends, and "Parson Ruggles" is held in affectionate remembrance throughout the whole length and breadth of the far-famed Annapolis Valley. About seven years ago the progress of an internal malady, which eventually caused his death, necessitated his retirement from the active ministry, and he came to reside in Halifax, where he started and built up a book business on Barrington street, assisting, whenever he was able, in the various city churches. On the removal of Dean Partridge to Fredericton, N.B., Mr. Ruggles was unanimously elected to his position, whose duties he most ably and acceptably discharged up to the day of his death. He was a man of fine physique and imposing presence, but withal of the kindest and most unassuming manner and bearing, and of cheerful and even temperament. He was immensely popular with his brother clergy, and indeed all classes of the community. His remarkably robust appearance was however very

deceptive, and his health for the past eight or ten years had been at no time better than very precarious, although his bright and elastic temperament enabled him to keep up an appearance of vigour that often he was far from feeling. The funeral services took place at St. Luke's Cathedral, of which congregation he was a member, on Wednesday following his death. The body was taken to the church at 6 a.m., and at 7.30 there was a solemn celebration of the Holy Communion, at which his widow and everyone of his nine children received. Rev. E. P. Crawford was the celebrant, and was assisted by Rev. Cuthbert Willis. The funeral service was held at 8 p.m., and was very largely attended by the clergy and the general public. All the city rectors and their assistants were present and several of the rural clergy, including Rev. Canon Brock, of Kentville, Archdeacon Kaulbach, of Truro, Dr. Ambrose, of Herring Cove, and others. His Lordship Bishop Courtney arrived from the West just in time to take part in the procession. The choir were out in full force, and a beautiful processional was sung on entering the church from the choir room. The service was almost entirely choral, and the anthem, "Who are these," was admirably rendered. The lesson was read by special request by Canon Brock, the deceased's successor at Kentville. The Nunc Dimittis was sung as a recessional. For nearly a mile the order of procession through the streets was as follows: The clergy in surplices, cassocks and stoles; the bishop in full canonicals, with his pastoral staff borne before him, Rev. Dr. Bullock acting as chaplain. Then came the hearse flanked on each side by the pall-bearers, Revs. Messrs. Bullock (chaplain to the forces); Le Moine, of St. Mark's; F. H. Almon, of Trinity; Pitman, of St. George's; Perry, assistant at St. Paul's, and F. Webster, St. Stephen's. Behind the hearse came the mourners and several hundreds of citizens on foot, including some of the most influential citizens of Halifax. The remains were interred in the beautiful new cemetery at "Three Mile House," on the banks of Bedford Basin. Mr. Ruggles in early life married Miss Owen, of Bridgewater, N.S., a lady of singularly beautiful disposition, and a sister of Hon. Mr. Owen, M.L.C., and Judge Owen, of Annapolis Royal. Mrs. Owen and nine children out of the ten born to them survive, of whom six are sons and three daughters. The profoundest sympathy is felt and has been expressed for the family in their bereavement. Magnificent floral tributes were sent by his old congregations at Kentville and Wolfville, and from his numerous personal friends. He resided for eighteen years in Kentville.

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

MONTREAL.

WILLIAM B. BOND, D.D., BISHOP, MONTREAL.

(Provincial Synod, concluded from last issue).

Wednesday.—Consideration of the report of the committee on the state of the Church, was resumed at this morning's session.

Dean Partridge, who submitted the report on behalf of the committee, explained that since the adjournment of the debate on the previous day, the clause which had given rise to so much discussion, viz., the relations of the Church to the masses, had been reconstructed. It now read to the effect that the committee could not omit from their consideration the very grave question of the relations of the Church to the poor and uneducated. The needs of the rich were amply supplied; the great middle classes were quite able to support and enjoy the ministrations of the Church; but it must be remembered that the poorer classes were peculiarly susceptible. The influence of the more social and demonstrative

forms of evangelistic agencies drew them to careless and less for the sober worship of the Church of England, and thus there must always be a constant struggle on the part of the Church to retain her grasp on her children. Let them beware of the bane of too much respectability and of the temptation to neglect the masses, whose squalid homes and unthrifty habits brought with them poverty and suffering. Let the Church go down to these classes with a brotherly grasp and exercise all kinds of ingenuity to find them some kind of spiritual work. The organizing and systematizing of an order of lay readers was suggested as a means which might be employed in bringing the Church into closer relations with the masses.

Dean Partridge moved that this clause be substituted for the one which had caused so much discussion on the previous day, and this having been agreed to, debate thereon took place.

Rev. Prof. Worrell thought that, whilst there might, in a few country parishes, be a falling off in the number of attendants and communicants at church, there should not be any seeming slur cast on the work of those engaged in such districts. Throughout the country there had not been that general increase in the population which might have been expected, and if the Church had not increased in the manner desired, it was to be attributed to this cause, and to the fact that there was a constant migration from the rural districts to the city, which caused the churches of the latter to be so largely swelled in the number of their attendants and communicants.

Canon Thorneloe said that the history of the past decade of the Eastern Townships parishes had been one whose keynote was progress. There had been new missions formed, new churches built, parsonages erected, and increases in various parishes in the number of communicants and attendants at church.

Canon Sutherland considered that the clause of the report was hysterical in its tone. So far as his experience went, the report was very much in error as regarded any town in Canada; it might have been drawn up by an Englishman from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, or any of the great manufacturing towns. The report talked about a workingman's squalid home; he (the speaker) would like to know where in the typical city of Hamilton, from which he came, that could be found. There the bona-fide workingman had a home as comfortable as that of any other person, and he had a great many luxuries. To talk about workingmen as a class in regard to the Church was a radical mistake. There was a tone of condescension in the report which would not go down with the workingmen, but would hold them aloof from the Church more than they were at present. It was quite a mistake to treat the workingman on any other footing than as man to man.

Dr. R. W. Heneker testified as to the growth of the Church in the Eastern Townships.

Mr. C. N. Vroom remarked that on Sunday last he had attended three Church services in this city, and with two of them he was disgusted, on account of the talking and giggling that was going on all over church, including the choir. There was nothing in a service of that kind to attract the masses, who, when they went to a service, wanted to see something reverential; if they went to a church service which was nothing but a concert, they were not going back again. One of the most important things with which the Church as a body had to deal was the attitude of the Church towards social reform. The Church of England was generally regarded as standing aloof from that reform; it was a position which that Church should not occupy. At temperance and other social gatherings the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian ministers would be found on the platform; but the Church of England clergyman was very seldom there. The result was that part of the community which needed the Church looked upon her as holding aloof from them, and, therefore, they did not go to the services. This was one of the things which the Church had to recognize before she would get hold of the masses.

Rev. E. P. Crawford held that there was no other body, unless it were the Roman Catholics, that cared so much for the poorer classes.

Canon Forsyth contended that the Church of England was not losing ground; it alone had made progress. He considered that it spoke a want of faith on the part of Churchmen to say that the Church of England was losing ground. One of the causes why she had not made more progress in the past was that a great many of the clergy had held aloof from the social platform and were above the general masses of the people. That, however, was changing now, and they were taking part in the social reform of the people, and a change was taking place on the part of the people towards the Anglican Church.

Rev. Dyson Hague advocated more sociability between the laity and the masses.

Rev. W. J. Ancient said that he formerly took part in temperance and other social meetings, but when he heard a person spoken of as a friend of the devil and an enemy of the Church, because he took the devil's drink in the Church, he, as a clergyman,