

BERMUDA.

We have received a copy of the charge lately addressed by the Right. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland to the Clergy of Bermuda.

The tone of this loving and valuable pastoral is somewhat sad. The good Bishop feels the loss of two of his clergy, who were doing much service to the Church, and he finds difficulty in supplying the vacancies.

It appears that by the last census the Church population of the Bermudas was 9479, the efficient care of whom, the Bishop thinks, requires more clergy and a subdivision of labor. There are many Wesleyan Methodists on the islands, and the Bishop reminds them that if they "are true to their founder's principles, they will not forsake the Church."

His Lordship expresses much sympathy for and interest in the blacks, and earnestly recommends his clergy "to give more attention to their Sunday schools; and if they cannot attend them in person, to enquire for scholars during the week, and place them under teachers, who will interest themselves in their welfare and report their progress and behaviour." He entreats them to visit, and that frequently, the dwellings of the poor, both sick and whole; believing such visitations would be gratefully received and be the means of bringing their people nearer to them, quoting the true though homely words, "a house-going parson makes a church-going people."

With regard to the difficulty of supporting day schools, the Bishop expresses a hope that his clergy will never rest satisfied without at least one school for poor children, under their direction, in every parish, and he appears to think that so much might be effected without the assistance or resistance of the State. He says, "That in, or for, the education of the children of this colony there is a conscience clause binding most strictly and especially upon us, all of you, I think, will admit; all certainly who can say with the Apostle, 'Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee,' a clause which He himself was pleased to insert in our commission, in that solemn command, 'Feed my Lambs.' And you will never forget that He who gave this command was graciously pleased to say, 'Whosoever receiveth one such little child in my name receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth Him that sent me.'"

The new Act for Registration appears to press somewhat inconveniently upon the clergy there. Their chief pastor recommends them, so far as they can, not only to comply with the regulations, but to remedy defects in the system.

With reference to marriages, the Bishop repeats the request made on former occasions, "that the season of Lent, and particularly the Holy Week immediately preceding Easter, be not, without necessity, allowed for its celebration." He also deprecates the strange anomaly of marrying in private houses, or in any place except the Church, and relies upon the moral influence of the clergy to prevent both of these irregularities. He states "that a Governor's license, so far from compelling, or requiring, a clergyman to celebrate marriage in a private dwelling, or at any uncanonical hour, does not even authorize any such departure, or indeed any departure, from the Church's laws or customs; it is simply and solely a license to dispense with the publication of banns."

His Lordship draws attention to the inability of the letters-patent to give ecclesiastical jurisdiction to any bishop in a colony having its own independent Legislature,* and he states still further, no ecclesiastical laws or Acts of Parliament

* It appears that the Bishop of Newfoundland has received the necessary recognition by the local Government of Bermuda.