

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

NO. I.

SIR.—Will you permit me, through the columns of your paper, to draw the minds of Churchmen in the Diocese of Nova Scotia, to a subject that ought to be peculiarly dear to them—that of placing the University of King's College at Windsor in a more efficient state for the Education of the young. This is a question of vital interest at the present moment, one which ought to engage the warmest feelings and greatest energies of every man who has at heart the well being, to say nothing of the very existence, of our Communion. At present we are a large and influential body, many who hold high and important public posts in our land, many who abound in wealth, many who are teachers and guides in things civil and religious, had from our branch of the Christian Church. This being the case, and acknowledged as such, by enemies as well as friends, we are naturally led to expect that these will all take a lively interest in the welfare of our Educational Institutions, and do all that lies in their power, for the sake of their children, their native land, their Church; to put them upon a proper footing and make them effective instruments for good. This, however, we do not see to be the case; our College has not been sufficiently brought before the members of our Church through the length and breadth of the land; they have not been called upon to take part either in its support or its management: in many rural districts in the interior they scarcely know of its existence: as a consequence it does not live in the hearts of the people. We doubt whether any one will deny the great want of interest evinced by the country at large; and this we feel for many reasons, to be a position alike ruinous to the secular and religious improvement of the rising generation in the Church.

What we want for the welfare and growth of our own Communion, what we want for the benefit and advancement of our Province is, an eminently efficient Institution for the Education of the young: this, the College at Windsor is not at present, it remains today what it was years ago,—an admirable instructor in Classics and pure Mathematics, but beyond that no one educated in its halls will venture to say that it even attempts to go. With its limited staff of officers it would be strange if things could be otherwise; Hercules himself could not go beyond his strength, and Sir Isaac Newton's intellect flagged before the dawning of the day; bodily strength and mental powers have, like the sea, their bounds, and over these they cannot pass. We expect, we ask no more from the gentlemen who now preside over their respective departments; we believe and know that the President at least, is taxed, both as to his time and care, beyond his strength.

This position would seem paradoxical: we find no fault, and yet we find great fault: to the Professors no blame can possibly be attached for not making the College more attractive; they have certain duties devolving upon them and these they perform; the fault lies in the Institution itself: the education it offers does not meet the wants of the present day. Are gentlemen anxious to fit their sons for the professions of law or medicine; the one may pass through his course without knowing that such a book as Blackstone was in print, or that such a thing as Political economy was ever studied, the other without having heard one word of the science of Botany, and when he enters the walls of Edinburgh unable to distinguish scientifically between a pine and beech tree—plants not only the spontaneous growth of his native land, but constantly alluded to in his classic authors from the day of matriculation to the examination for degree. So with respect to Chemistry, Mineralogy, Geology and any other Science one might choose to add. Nor can those who feel more anxious about the future clergy than other professional men, pass by unheeded the fact that no provision worth naming is made for their instruction. Hurried through a number of Greek and Latin authors, equally hurried through a course of abstract Mathematical books, the young Minister is expected to enter upon the duties of a Mission immediately on his leaving the University. Is this fair, is it profitable to the man himself, and is it of service to the Church at large? Surely not. But these things are not, because under present circumstances they cannot, be taught at College. What we require is a larger staff of Professors, and a more varied and general system of Education. I must not, however, occupy too much of your page at once, but if you will permit me, I shall endeavour in one or two letters of moderate length to put before my fellow-Churchmen, a plan for placing King's College in a position to meet the wants, I might say the absolute requirements of the day, and urge them to join hand in hand in the carrying out a cause which must come home to the heart of every one whose children are now gathered around his hearth who are setting out upon the path of life.

A BACHELOR OF ARTS.

Halifax, Nov. 21 1852.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, NOV. 27, 1852.

ADVENT.

THE rapid flight of time has brought us once more to the commencement of those few weeks, which, from a very early period, have been set apart by the Church, as preparatory to the commemoration of the Saviour's first visit to this sinful world. To-morrow will be the commencement of the Church's year. "She begins her year," says Wheatley, "and renews the annual course of her services at this time of Advent, therein differing from all other accounts whatsoever. The reason of which is, because she does not number her days or measure her seasons so much by the motion of the Sun, as by the course of our Saviour, beginning and counting on her year with Him, who being the true Sun of Righteousness, began now to rise upon the world, and as the Day Star on High, to enlighten them that sat in spiritual darkness."

The reflecting Churchman cannot but be thankful for the many helps he has, to lead his mind in the right direction, and to enable him to "look unto Jesus as the author and finisher of his faith." How full of Christ are the services appointed for the season of Advent! In the lessons from the Old Testament, and the Epistles and Gospels from the New, He is the great subject presented to our view. In the Collects for each Sunday we are led to raise our hearts, in language of the sublimest kind, to the same gracious Lord. Especially in that for to-morrow, and which is to be repeated to the close of Advent, we are furnished with a "form of sound words," admirably fitted to express the most solemn feelings of the soul, and to implore from the Almighty, that sanctifying influence which, at every season, we so greatly need. The whole scope of an Advent service is "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Our thoughts are turned to His "second coming," as the best way to celebrate rightly His first. Let the serious attention of every member of the Church be given to the great subject thus brought before us at this time. "Let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." While preparing to commemorate the first visit of the Son of God, "in great humility" let prayerful thoughts be turned to "His second coming in glorious majesty, to judge the quick and dead."

While praying that "His kingdom may come" in every land,—that the period may be hastened when all shall know Him, from the least to the greatest, and "all the kingdoms of the earth shall become the kingdoms of the Lord and of His Christ; while at this season especially the believing Churchman will thus be led to dwell on the sure fulfilment of every prophecy, that relates to the universal dominion of Christ upon earth, and the arrival of a time—

"When o'er our ransomed nature,
The lamb for sinners slain,
Redeemer, King, Creator,
Will come in bliss to reign."

Let the most fervent prayer of all be, that His kingdom may come within our own hearts, and be displayed in the complete obedience of our lives. This is our grand concern—to have the "Lord our righteousness" enthroned in our souls, "dwelling in our hearts by faith," reigning supremely over "the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life,"—bringing our very thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Him, who so loved us as to come into this miserable world to save us for ever. May this be the great theme of ardent and persevering prayer with every member of our beloved Church in this and every other land, during this season of Advent—that so, when earthly observances shall end, and the Lord shall come to take account of his servants, we may be welcomed as his faithful and accepted people.

We were glad to hear, in passing through Malbone Bay, of which the Rev. W. H. Snyder has lately taken charge, that old friends in that quarter had shown good feeling at a meeting recently held for Church purposes, and that Pastor and people are working harmoniously together. We understand that arrangements had been made to pay off a small debt on the Parish, purchase a lot of ground for easier access to the Church, and to provide the requisite salary for the Clergyman. That's right.

NOTICE OF ORDINATION.—The Lord Bishop purposes (D.V.) to hold his next Ordination at Halifax, on Sunday, December 19. Persons intending to offer themselves as Candidates for Holy Orders upon that occasion, are desired to notify their intention to His Lordship without delay.

CONVOCAATION.

In a late number we gave as we found it, a rumour that Earl Derby had decided to advise the Queen to allow the Convocation to proceed to business. The rumour, it appears was unfounded, and things will remain as before. We take the following from an exchange paper.—

THE FALSE REPORTS OF THE REVIVAL OF CONVOCAATION.—We are authorized to give the most unqualified contradiction, for the second time, to an assertion which has been published by the Times, that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Ministers to sanction the revival of the active powers of Convocation. There is not, and never has been, the slightest foundation for such a rumour.

Her Majesty's Government have not, we most distinctly declare, entertained the question for a moment. We understand that it was in consequence of a foolish wager on the Stock Exchange that our contemporary was hoaxed into the promulgation of the absurdity in question.—Church & State Gazette.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE R. M. Steamship America arrived on Wednesday morning. Parliament met on the 11th inst. The Queen's Speech will be found in another column.

Lord Derby in a speech upon the Address in answer to the Royal Speech, said,—“After the opinion which had been expressed by the country, he saw that a recurrence to a protective policy was impracticable, and if practicable it was not desirable to reopen the controversy, and on the part of his colleagues he bowed to the decision of the country, and while anxious to mitigate the injurious consequences which had fallen upon some classes, he would seek to make no change or recent commercial policy, which he was prepared honestly, frankly and fairly to carry out as the Minister of the Crown.”

A shock of an earthquake had been felt, more or less sensibly, in various parts of Ireland, England and Wales.—“The course taken was across the Irish channel—where, however, the passengers in the ordinary packets running between Kingstown and Liverpool and Kingstown and Holyhead, did not perceive any indications of the phenomenon—along the coast of North Wales, through the principal districts of South Lancashire, and along the edges of Cheshire and Shropshire into Gloucestershire. The weather for several days previously had been wet and sultry, with a warm and unseasonable atmosphere.”

At the latest dates the mortal remains of the late Duke of Wellington lay in state at Chelsea Hospital, whither they had been conveyed from Walmer Castle, with appropriate ceremony, by special train, on Wednesday the 10th inst. to await the last sad manifestation of a nation's gratitude. The Queen, with Prince Albert and the royal children, proceeded to Chelsea after the opening of Parliament, to view the body. The royal party remained some time, and then returned to Buckingham palace. Austria alone, of all the great Powers, had determined not to send a representative to attend the funeral.

The most important foreign news is the *senatus consultum* adopted by the French senate, re-establishing the Empire. Under this authority Louis Napoleon accepts the Empire with the style and title of Napoleon III., and the imperial dignity is made hereditary in his direct and legitimate descendants from male to male, to the perpetual exclusion of females and their descendants. W. G.

A meeting of the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto, was held in the St. James' Parochial School of that City, on the 10th inst., the Lord Bishop in the Chair, to consider what steps should be adopted for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of the Statute 14 & 15 Vict. cxxxv. The Bishop's speech upon the subject is replete with interest. The following Resolutions, which embody the objects for which the meeting was called, were passed:—

That from the respect and affection which this Church Society entertains for our venerable Diocesan, and the debt of gratitude which we owe to his Lordship for his untiring exertions and indefatigable zeal in promoting the best interests of the Church during the long period of fifty years, to which under Divine Providence, is mainly owing the prosperous condition of the Canadian branch of the Catholic Church, it would be felt by the Society to be injurious to the Church to vest the presentation to Rectories in any other hands than those of the Diocesan:

Resolved, therefore, that the Patronage be vested in the Diocesan.

Resolved unanimously, That a Committee be appointed, consisting of the Chief Justice, the Hon. Mr. DeBlaquiere, the Hon. J. H. Cameron, the Rev. H. J. Gracet, the Rev. F. L. Osler, and Rev. D. E. Blake, to prepare a Bye law to be submitted to the next monthly meeting, declaring in whom the right of presentation to the Rectories in this Diocese shall