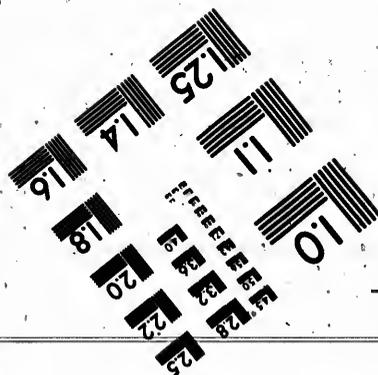
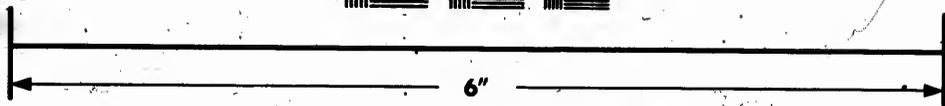


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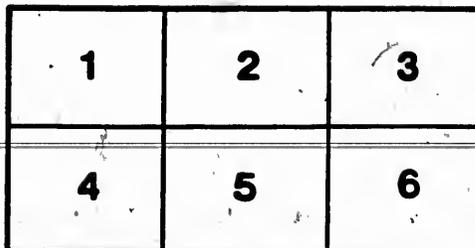
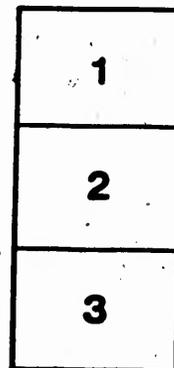
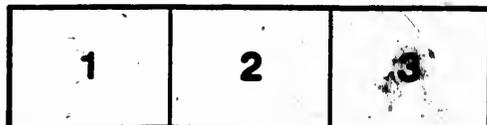
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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF ST. MARY'S PARISH,

APPOINTED

At a Meeting of the Parishioners,

HOLDEN

IN THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL ROOMS,

ON

The 28th day of Nov., 1841.

HALIFAX, N. S. :

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF WALSH & WHELAN,

1842.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

RESEARCH REPORT

NO. 100

BY R. W. M. WILSON

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 1950

1950

THE

VICARIATE OF NOVA-SCOTIA,

Church of St. Mary's, City of Halifax.

THE PROVINCE OF NOVA-SCOTIA, originally a French Colony, occupied by Emigrants from France, during the reign of Louis XIV. was ceded to the Crown of England, by treaty of Utrecht, and the old Capital, Port Royal, (hodie Annapolis) ceased to be the Seat of Government, which was transferred to the present City of Halifax, built in 1759. The first inhabitants consisted of an immigration from the Colony of Massachusetts, in New England, including few, or no, members of our Communion. The spirit of the religious feelings, which their early legislation evinced, was deeply tinged with severities against the precepts and practices of the Catholic Faith. This temper of the earlier times, the intimacies of association, and the meliorating influences of intelligence upon society, have almost wholly subdued.

The Statute Book has been purged from these primeval blemishes; the restrictions upon the exercise of our civil rights, owe their disappearance and rescindment to the tolerant and kindly jurisprudence of a fair and well-disposed people, and if the advantages which equal laws, and unrepressed freedom, in the exercise of our religious opi-

nions have not been fully and commensurately attained, we cannot with any justifiable grounds for the inculpation, impute our deficiencies to external impediments.

In the year 1785 the first Catholic Church was erected, and a Clergyman of the Franciscan Order arrived at Halifax, who assumed the spiritual charge of the congregation. His ministry continued with increasing success until the year 1798, when the Reverend Gentleman retired from the religious superintendence of the Catholics of this City, and returned to his native country—*Ireland*—where at his Decease he bequeathed a considerable legacy to the College of Maynooth. In the interim, the Rev. Mr. Burke, a Priest from the Island of Newfoundland, visited Halifax and temporarily officiated. At this time, from causes at this distance not easily ascertained, some serious disturbances in the feelings of the Congregation occurred, which, on being announced to the Bishop of Quebec, who claimed jurisdiction over Nova Scotia (by its old name Acadia,) that Prelate ordered the Rev. Dr. Edmund Burke to the mission of Halifax, with plenary powers, as Vicar General of the Province.

The Vicar immediately convoked a meeting of the principal Inhabitants, and submitted to them certain constitutions, which with the sanction of the Lord Bishop, and upon the model of similar and analagous systems in the Canadas, he was commanded to establish and enforce. These constitutions imparted to a certain body of the Parishioners, deriving its existence from the elective principle, certain specified powers relative to the financial and economic government of the Parish.

The purport of the same may be concisely stated as follows:

The indispensable presence of the Vicar General, or his representative, in the Parish at all Parochial Meetings

or Convocations of the above Body (known by the name and title of the "Wardens and Electors"). His signature in attestation of a sanction to all such acts and proceedings wherein they should be called upon to regulate and administer the temporalities of the mission, when not repugnant to the canons of the Church. The annual election by voice (by the members of the said Body severally kneeling at the foot of the Priest presiding) of four Wardens—one of whom should be in charge for the current year—whose functions should consist in the collection of all rates and dues constitutionally imposed subject to the judgment of the administrator of the Parish for sepulture.—The annual subscriptions and the rents (at vendue) stipulated as payable for the use and occupation of the pews. The Warden then in charge was further confined in his expenditure to the sum of five pounds currency upon all matters of trivial and temporary necessity. Any requisition for an outlay of a higher or larger sum must be made to the general body at its meeting, duly constituted as before, who alone were the competent authorities for the purposes of general disbursement and appropriation of the public funds.

Under the authority vested in the Wardens and Electors by the Constitution adverted to, that Body continued from the period of its origin, through the whole spiritual administration of the late Dr. Edmund Burke over this Vicariate, to supply by the suffrages of its constituents, the several vacancies as they occurred by death or removal from the Parish, until, during the episcopacy of Dr. Fraser, the Pewholders were admitted by that Prelate's amendment of the constitution to their privilege in the exercise of the franchise.

One of their first acts after the improvement thus introduced by His Lordship, was a resolution accompanied by

an humble address, both of which we subjoin and to which we respectfully solicit attention, bearing as it does the signature of the present Vicar General, as a sanction to its justice and its truth (vide Appendix A & B); but if further testimony were wanting, to evince the anxiety of the Congregation on the subject of its spiritual wants, a resolution was passed as early as the 6th of January, 1833, appropriating an ample sum for the maintenance of His Lordship and one Clergyman, and including a further offer of suitable provision for additional Clergymen to meet the "pressing wants" of the Parish; which latter requisition became the constant and reiterated subject of importunity to His Lordship (vide Appendix C, D & K).

The effect of these importunities and the constant readiness evinced by the Parish, at length prevailed upon His Lordship, at the instance of the Wardens and Electors, to address the following letter to the Most Reverend Dr. Murray, requesting his Grace's intervention in our behalf:

### LETTER.

*Halifax, Nova Scotia, N. America, }  
July 20th, 1838. }*

TO HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. DR. MURRAY.

MOST REVEREND SIR,—

FULLY convinced that your Lordship will feel intense interest in every project calculated to promote the glory of God and the salvation of souls, I beg leave, without preface or apology, to introduce to your Lordship's consideration the following important subject. I arrived

here ten days ago, from the eastern extremity of the province, where necessity compels me to reside, and on my arrival was requested by the Catholic population of this town, six thousand in number, all Irish or of Irish descent, to apply to your Lordship for two Clergymen from your Diocese, one as an assistant to the Reverend John Loughnan, the present incumbent, and the other to take charge of the education of youth in the Seminary. A Priest of unexceptionable character and possessed of considerable oratorical powers in explaining the principles of our holy religion and enforcing its divine precepts, would be of incalculable benefit in this place. By to-morrow's packet I remit a bill of £100 to Messrs. Wright & Co., Bankers, London, which will be at your disposal for the above purpose. I am, besides, authorized to state, that the sum of three hundred pounds currency, as yearly salary, will be cheerfully given, with comfortable lodgings in the Glebe House. Should your Lordship, however, find it impossible to relieve us, may I so far presume on your goodness as to request your influence and kind interference with some other Bishop or Bishops in Ireland who may be both disposed and able, without any inconvenience, to remove the spiritual wants, and accomplish the earnest and pious wishes of your countrymen here.

In anxious expectation of an answer as early as convenient, I remain, my Lord,

Yours, uti Frater in Christo,

† WILLIAM FRASER, Ep. Tanen, and

Vicar Apostolic of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

3

THE Gentlemen sought for, arrived, and before even their entrance upon the duties of the various stations intended for them, and to which they had been invited, some untoward and serious misunderstanding occurred, which led to the threat of their immediate and sudden departure from the Province, by the vessel in which they arrived; an event only averted by the unanimous entreaties and supplications of the People, represented through the Wardens and Electors, and the documentary proof of which we subjoin from the Parochial Records—(vide Appendix E.)

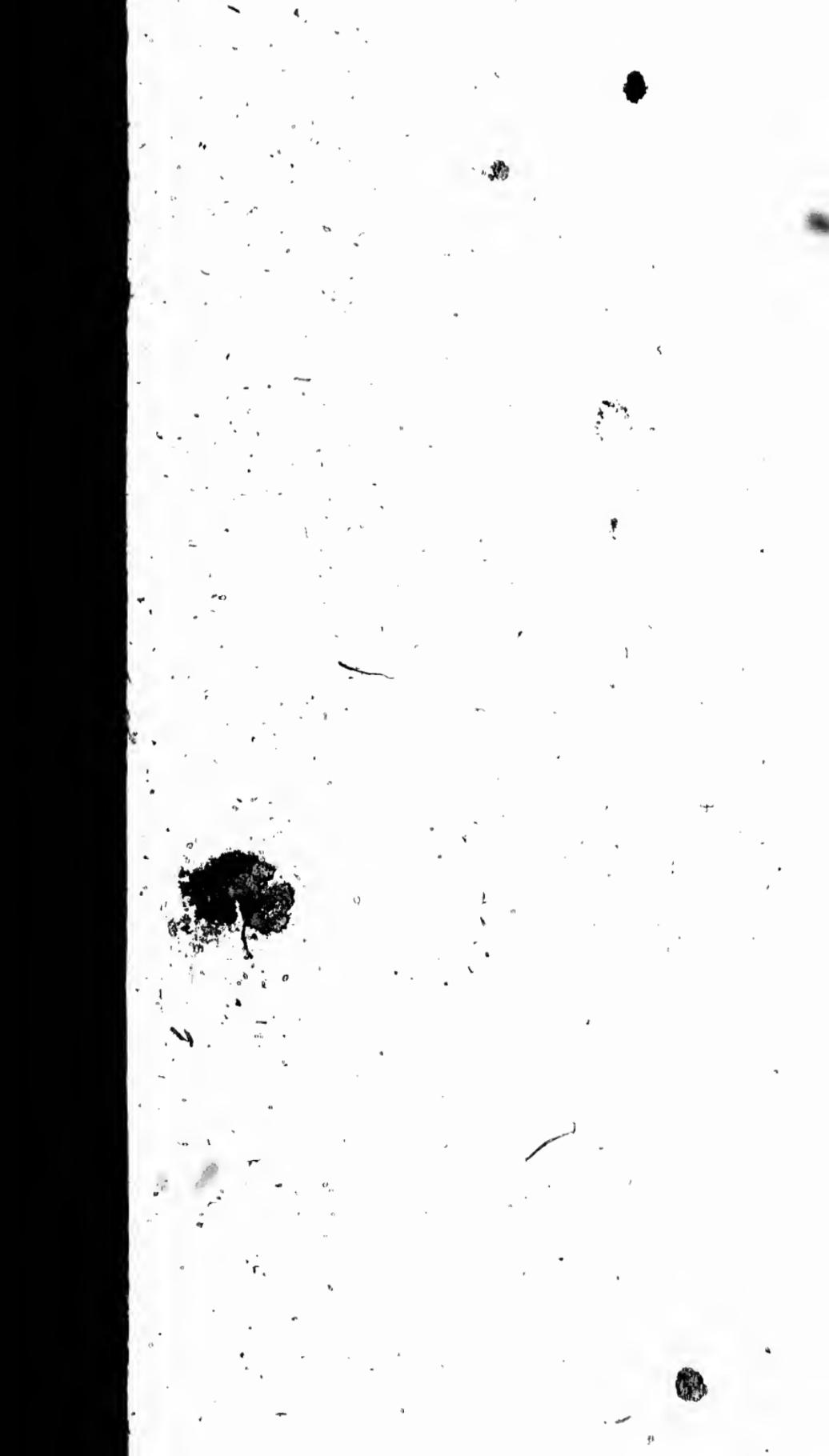
His Lordship at this time having abruptly left us, without any adjustment of or measures taken to arrange, these unseemly divisions, a condition so full of perplexity and confusion to our people, that a special memorial (by a gentleman of approved and exemplary character and as such known to the Bishop) was addressed to his Lordship, explicitly descriptive of our condition, and remonstrating for relief. We know not how we can better set forth the state of which we complained, than by the insertion of the letter at full length which follows, passed at a meeting sanctioned by the attendance of the Vicar-General, as is testified by his signature to the same. (Vide Appendix F & G).

The Gentleman (messenger) obtained the contemplated interview with his Lordship at Antigonish (distant from Halifax 150 miles), and led the Parish to the entertainment of a sanguine hope, that measures would be taken to secure the services of these Gentlemen in the Parish with comfort to themselves and usefulness to the people.

Zeal and an animated attention to the improvement of our condition, distinguished the early efforts of these Reverend Gentlemen on their arrival. Previously to their presence, Halifax had never known the utility or existence of those instructive and pious Institutions which, in Catholic countries, are found such important auxiliaries for the instruction of the people and the propagation of the Faith. Catechistical Societies were established, and many members of the community, who, though capable of imparting instruction to the unintelligent and uneducated, had up to that period been permitted to remain in indifference or apathy on such matters, were awakened to a sense of their own responsibility and the just demands on their attention and time, which their uninstructed brothers possessed.

A Catholic Library, hitherto a desideratum in the Parish, was established—funds raised, and books of standard value and eminent Catholic usefulness, procured, which are now eagerly read by the people; and many are thus enabled to maintain from these sources of information, the grounds of their Faith against the arguments of heresy and disbelief.

An Auxiliary Branch of the Catholic Institute, that medium of such signal usefulness and manifold advantages to the Catholics of the English community, was also set on foot, and the responsible and active duties assumed by the Reverend Mr. O'Brien. A correspondence with the parent Institute was established—remittances made, and a copious supply of religious documents and tracts received, which have been disseminated by the agency of the Catholic Branch through the various and remote portions of the vicariate—thus diffusing the precepts and lessons of our faith among the distant and scattered settlers of the wilderness, where the deficiencies of spiritual aid



would otherwise leave the children of many a poor Catholic without tuition or intelligence in the doctrines of the Church.

During the Holy Week of the last Lent, the present generation of Catholics in Halifax witnessed for the first time, under the ministration of these Reverend Gentlemen, the solemnization of those Vesper observances so peculiarly suited in our ritual to the sanctity of the season, and the magnificent and soul-thrilling psalmody of the tenebræ, with their attendant ceremonials, were for the first time intoned beneath the vaults of St. Mary's; and we hesitate not to say that the Holy Week of the last year in this city will not fail to be remembered for a very long space of time yet to come.

During this (as it ultimately proved to be) treacherous calm, the earnest attention of all was directed to carry out one of the dearest objects, which they had proposed in urging the Bishop to send for two clergymen, was the establishment of a college. In it they were ably seconded by the Rev. Mr. O'Brien, who soon had the high gratification of seeing persons of all creeds availing themselves of the facilities afforded by such an Institution. His most sanguine anticipations were realised, the number of students attending the classes soon amounting to nearly eighty. On the meeting of the Legislature in the year following, a munificent donation of three hundred pounds was made towards its support by an almost unanimous vote; and to insure a continuance of the bright prospects which were dawning on the Catholics of this country, an Act of Incorporation was passed, granting the power of conferring Degrees; thus placing the College on a footing of equality with that belonging to the established religion which had for many years existed in the colony. The want of such an Institution had for

years pressed on the minds of Catholics. No other sources whence instruction could be derived for their children being open to them but those which would tend to sap the foundation of their faith. To the eminent talents and unwearied exertions of the Reverend Principal, notwithstanding the repeated attempts to stay its onward career from the very moment of his putting foot on our soil, are the Catholics of this country indebted for the Institution of St. Mary's. But, unfortunately, like almost every undertaking engaged in by the Catholics of this community, its usefulness is paralyzed, its very existence put in jeopardy, by the indifference evinced towards it by the Bishop, and the covert attacks of the Vicar General.

The existence of the several noble institutions above referred to, we wholly ascribe to the instrumentality of the Reverend Gentlemen, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Dease. The insufficiency of the accommodation afforded by the Church of St. Mary's, for Seven Thousand Parishioners being but 80 by 60 feet, induced the People to provide against this crying inconveniency, by attempting to erect a second, at the opposite end of the City of Halifax. His Lordship the Bishop commended the spirit of the People, and from the Altar gave His Blessing to the Work, but the apathy and discountenance shown by the Vicar General, Mr. Loughnan, in creating repeated obstacles to, and difficulties in the way of, so beneficial an undertaking, at length wearied the spirits of a people, who have seemingly consigned to defeat all hopes of success.

A site in a commodious and valuable division of the city was purchased by a committee of Gentlemen in the Parish, selected by the Body, with the Very Reverend the Vicar General at their head. He, in conjunction with the members of the committee, had selected the above ground for purchase, approved highly of its posi-

tion, and evinced every disposition at the time to sustain and encourage the laudable and Catholic objects of the people. In conformity to a requisition for a general meeting of the Parish, to sanction the purchase made by the committee, and to collect the necessary funds for the erection of the church, the public meeting took place, and notwithstanding the previous approval by the Vicar General of the project, and the recommendation of the Bishop, the former abruptly left the chair and the meeting, in a scene of perplexity and discouragement. The People, notwithstanding, having the blessing of the Bishop publicly given from the Altar at the High Mass, upon the undertaking, still struggled with the hope of providing further accommodation for the religious wants of their fellows, who at this season of the year, may be seen kneeling at the vestibule, exposed to the severities of the weather, or crowded to suffocation in the nave and aisles, with a most unseemly confusion. In a word, the ground obtained and agreed for, has been demanded back by the proprietors. The amount of monies collected or subscribed, remains without an object for their application, the insufficiency of church accommodation is matter of constant complaint, and the people ascribe the inconveniences they suffer to the apathy or opposition of the Vicar General.

The Reverend Mr. Dease, who will present these documents, finding his situation such (we repeat his own words which we presume he would find himself able to substantiate), "that it seriously impaired his usefulness as a Clergyman, by interrupting the charities and peaceful quiet of mind, so essential to one who had to minister at the altar," at length applied for his exeat, as His Lordship the Bishop had immediately before paid a short visit of six days to the Parish, and without any arrange-

ment of existing differences or decision upon the complaints, abruptly left it.

The exact which Mr. Dease had sought, was transmitted by the Bishop, and for aught that it would seem to cost our Ecclesiastical authorities, either in care or in interest, a relapse into the state which the documents under their own signatures bear proof of might have occurred, but the people, roused by a love of their faith—a zeal for its interests and for the future fortunes of their children—besought his Lordship, in terms of entreaty (by a document more humble in its spirit than the letter on a similar subject, sent from the Wardens and Electors, with the approval of the Reverend Mr. Loughnan), to permit the further continuance of the Rev. Mr. Dease's ministry. The record of the proceedings on this occasion follow as No. 1 in the Appendix.

His Lordship's reply to the supplication of the Parish, respectfully worded, and thus exhibited, follows, in the undeserved terms which we subjoin, literally as it was written,—

### LETTER.

THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL TOBIN, JUNIOR.

HALIFAX.

HONOURABLE DEAR SIR,

I AVAIL myself of Mr. Doyle's return to Halifax, of informing that the Letter, containing the petition for an additional Church in the Northern Suburbs, with its Signatures,—has been committed to the flames, with other important tho' now useless communications.

As I wish as much as possible to curtail all unnecessary correspondence, I take the liberty of addressing you individually on the subject of the last petition, so nume-

rously and respectably signed, for re-instating the Rev. Mr. Dease in his former capacity. His resignation was solely the act of his own will, and it was at his own earnest request I sent him his *Exeat* or *Dimissorials*: if he now feel disappointed, and repent of his rash and hasty resolutions, let him blame himself, not me. I delayed three posts in sending them, in expectation of receiving in the interim, counter orders, but to no effect. He has them now and he is at full liberty to return to his native soil. The *exeat* will show that his retirement from my jurisdiction was voluntarily on his part, and no ways compulsory on mine.

Any future application to me on the subject of the selection and appointment of clergymen to parochial duties or ecclesiastical offices within the limits of my spiritual jurisdiction, will meet with the unqualified and well-merited contempt of

Your very obedient servant,

And sincere well wisher,

(Signed) †WILLIAM FRASER, Ep. Tanen, &c.

On the receipt of His Lordship's missive, and the failure of those hopes which the arrival of the Rev. Gentleman had so sanguinely inspired—discouraged by the ungenerous and repulsive spirit we had experienced from his Lordship, from whom by neither word, thought nor act, we deserved such a reply as was transmitted—an appeal to the Holy See, the Mother of the Churches, presented itself. We had been taught from our infancy, that it was the centre of unity, and the seat of the Apostles, and that a reference for counsel and advice to its authorities was an evidence of filial submissiveness, rather than deviation from discipline. We subjoin a record of the steps taken by the Parish, with the Resolutions and appended Documents, which, in all humility, and with the most unqualified deference to Ecclesiastical authority, we forward.

The Rev. Mr. Dease has since taken his leave of the Parish, and left for his native Diocese in Ireland, en route to the Holy City, where we, in the earnestness of our hearts, pray that an examination of the Premises, and an inspection of our religious state and condition, with the grounds of complaint, whether well or ill founded, may take place, and such relief or remedy in the matter may be afforded to the People, as in conscience and in equity they deserve.

In conclusion, as we, the subscribers, have been publicly, at the altar, threatened with exclusion from the sacraments by the Very Reverend Mr. Loughnan, until the opinion of his Lordship the Bishop be received on this subject. We solemnly appeal for counsel, and advice, and for correction, (if misinstructed in the right appreciation of the privilege, which sometimes becomes a duty in the Catholic, of referring to the Holy See in his doubts and his difficulties)—to that sacred head, the acknowledgment of whose authority indicates the absence of schism, and submission to whose voice, both in doctrine and discipline, is the most certain evidence of Catholic Communion.

MICHAEL TOBIN, sen., *Chairman.*

L. O'CONNOR DOYLE, *Secretary.*

THOMAS KENNY,  
MICL. TOBIN, jr.  
EDWARD KENNY,  
MICL. BENNETT,  
MICL. MALONEY.  
PETER FURLONG,  
JAS. COCHRAN,  
JOHN QUINN,  
JAS. C. TOBIN,  
JAS. WALLACE,  
THOS. RING,  
WM. DILLON,  
WM. DONOVAN,  
ROGER CUNNINGHAM,

PATRICK SWAINE,  
DANL. CRONAN,  
PATRICK WALSH,  
JEREMIAH CONWAY,  
WM. BARRON,  
JOHN NUGENT,  
THOS. FIELDING,  
MANL. DEFREYTUS,  
WM. SKERRY,  
JOHN ROCHE,  
THOS. S. TOBIN,  
PETER MORRISSEY,  
PETER GRANT.

Committee appointed by the Parish of St. Mary's

HALIFAX, NOVA-SCOTIA, December 31, 1841.

Since the above exposition has been concluded, and though no other ostensible step, of any nature whatsoever, either by the Parish at large, or by us as its representatives, was taken, and though the Wardens and Electors on Saturday (1st inst.) assembled—conformably to usage, on the summons of the Vicar General, at the High Mass duly and regularly received—audited the Wardens' accounts, and passed them, with the other ordinary business for the year, and though the same was approved of by the Vicar General, by his signature at its dissolution, yet on yesterday (Sunday 2d Jan. 1842) His Reverence the Vicar General, in reference to the proceedings of a meeting where he presided, and where his presence would at the time have enabled him to have then denounced the measures, (all of which are now faithfully set forth in these documents) and where he attempted not, or made any anathema or open explanation of the grounds or particulars wherein we erred or offended, and though at the same meeting a vote of thanks passed to his Reverence for his conduct in the chair yet on yesterday we were, as well as all others who had taken a part in those matters at the meeting, by him pronounced, publicly from the altar, a person to be denied, and excluded from the administration of the Sacrament, in sickness and in health. The above neither requires nor will admit of comment.

MICHAEL TOBIN, sen., *Chairman.*

L. O'CONNOR DOYLE, *Secretary.*

HALIFAX, 3d Jan. 1842.

## APPENDIX.

HALIFAX, *November 14, 1841.*

IN consequence of an announcement from the Altar, at the time of the Solemn Mass for the PARISH OF SAINT MARY, in the City of Halifax, that the Rev. L. J. Dease had received his Exeat from the Right Rev. Dr. Fraser, the Vicar Apostolic of Nova-Scotia and its dependencies— A meeting of the Parishioners was held on Sunday the 14th inst., after Vespers, in the Parochial School Room, the Hon. MICHAEL TOBIN, Senior, was unanimously called to the Chair; L. O'CONNOR DOYLE, Esq., was appointed to act as Secretary.

The objects of the Meeting were fully and at length set forth by the Honble: Chairman, who forcibly depicted to the Meeting, the early difficulties which opposed the progress of our Faith in this Province, and the improving condition of our affairs, since the arrival of the Reverend Gentlemen, whose services, the zeal and exertion of His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, had procured for this Vicariate. A general feeling of regret at the untoward event of Mr. Dease's separation evincing itself, a resolution was moved to the effect following:

By the Honble. MICHAEL TOBIN, Junior.

That an Address be presented to His Lordship, humbly soliciting Him to reinstate the Rev. Mr. Dease, in the faculties requisite for a renewal of his Ministry in this Parish, if His Lordship should so please.

The following Address, in pursuance of the terms of the Resolution, was then unanimously passed.

## ADDRESS.

HALIFAX, *November 16*, 1841.

TO THE RIGHT REV. DOCTOR FRASER,  
BISHOP OF TANEN, AND VICAR APOSTOLIC OF NOVA-SCOTIA.  
RIGHT REV. AND VERY DEAR SIR,

WE trespass on your Lordship's time, at this season, to enclose a copy of the request we have forwarded to the Rev. Joseph Dease, to induce his further continuance in the service of this Parish, where, we unfeignedly assure your Lordship, a high sense of his usefulness is universally felt; and as we have prevailed upon him to consent to remain, subject to Your Lordship's approval, we pray Your Lordship would be pleased so to order matters, by sanctioning such consent, as will give stability to the high and cheering hopes we entertain for the improving welfare of this important portion of your Vicariate.

Thoroughly impressed with the sense of all due and proper submissiveness to Your Lordship's high prerogative, we solicit Your acquiescence in the prayer of this Memorial, and remain, with consideration of the highest respect,

Your obedient Servants,

(SIGNED BY NEARLY ONE THOUSAND PARISHIONERS.)

A Special Messenger was despatched to Antigonish, with the foregoing Address to the Bishop, on Tuesday 16th, who returned on 23rd, with the Reply annexed.

111

REPLY.

ANTIGONISH, 20th November, 1841.

THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL TOBIN, JUNIOR,  
HALIFAX.

HONOURABLE DEAR SIR,

I AVAIL myself of Mr. Doyle's return to Halifax, of informing that the Letter, containing the petition for an additional Church in the Northern Suburbs, with its Signatures,—has been committed to the flames, with other important tho' now useless communications.

As I wish as much as possible to curtail all unnecessary correspondence, I take the liberty of addressing you individually on the subject of the last petition, so numerous and respectably signed, for re-instating the Rev. Mr. Dease in his former capacity. His resignation was solely the act of his own will, and it was at his own earnest request I sent him his *Exeat* or Dimissorials: if he now feel disappointed, and repent of his rash and hasty resolutions, let him blame himself, not me. I delayed three posts in sending them, in expectation of receiving in the interim, counter orders, but to no effect. He has them now and he is at full liberty to return to his native soil. The *exeat* will show that his retirement from my jurisdiction was voluntarily on his part, and no ways compulsory on mine.

Any future application to me on the subject of the selection and appointment of clergymen to parochial du-

ties, or ecclesiastical offices within the limits of my spiritual jurisdiction, will meet with the unqualified and well-merited contempt of

Your very obedient servant,

And sincere well wisher,

(Signed) †WILLIAM FRASER, Ep. Tanen, &c.

On the receipt of intelligence that the special messenger to whom the memorial to his Lordship Dr. Fraser was transmitted, had returned, a formal requisition was addressed to the legitimate authority, according to the Episcopal Constitution of the Parish, and a general meeting was, conformably thereto, held on Sunday 28th November, the Very Rev. the Vicar General in the Chair; when after having read and fully considered the letter of his Lordship, Dr. Fraser, in reply to the memorial, the following Resolutions were put and passed unanimously;

On motion of the Hon. M. TOBIN, jun.;

Seconded by Mr. P. FURLONG—

Resolved, That this Parish are unconscious of any cause given by them for the imputation of interfering with his Lordship "on the subject of the selection and appointment of Clergymen to Parochial duties or Ecclesiastical offices within the limits of his spiritual jurisdiction," and they regard the mention of such matters in the reply of his Lordship, as unjustified by any word or expression in their letter to him, or by any previous act of theirs, and utterly undeserved by the spirit and disposition shewn by this Parish to preserve all due consideration for their Superior in the Hierarchy, and their undeviating respect for the Authorities of a Church to which their hearts and affections are inalienably attached; and they hereby disavow every thought so repugnant to

their conceptions of duty, and feel that they would justly subject themselves to the reproach of all good Catholics, were they capable of meriting at any time, or in any manner, the unkind insinuations of his Lordship.

Passed unanimously.

On motion of Mr. JAMES C. TOBIN ;

Seconded by Mr. JAMES WALLACE—

Resolved, That inasmuch as the Parish find they are unable to retain the services of the Rev. Mr. DEASE, they deem it incumbent on them to express the deep regret they feel at the necessity of parting with one to whose extraordinary exertions they are indebted for the establishment of so many useful institutions conducive to the advancement of Catholicity in this City, and the education and instruction of the children, to which he had so zealously devoted himself.

Passed unanimously.

On motion of Mr. MICHAEL MALONEY ;

Seconded by Mr. P. MORRISSEY—

Resolved, That an Address, expressive of the deep feelings of gratitude of the Parishioners, and their regret on his departure, be presented to the Rev. Mr. Dease.

Passed unanimously.

## ADDRESS,

HALIFAX, N. S., *November 28, 1841.*

TO THE REV. L. J. DEASE.

REV. AND DEAR SIR.

WE, the members of St. Mary's Parish, assembled,

cannot permit you to leave these shores without some testimony of the spirit with which we hailed your arrival, and the painfulness and regret with which we now feel penetrated at the announcement of your departure. When, impelled by the solicitude of turning to a faithful account those resources which Providence, in the dispensations of its blessings, has placed at our command—when we first besought His Grace the Most Rev. Doctor Murray, to bestow his sympathies upon our condition, and to cast his care upon the requirements of this Parish—no other consideration but an earnest and undissembled regard for the spiritual interests of our children and ourselves, constituted the motive of our conduct. We saw around us a community diversified by the various castes of creed and of country, exemplifying in their several relations of their intercourse with us, a spirit of kindness, good will, and Christian charity—a characteristic of society in Nova Scotia, eminently and long prevalent. We felt that if we were ever the objects of a sinister or ungracious reflection, it was rather in the form of a slur upon our own apathy, and a stricture upon the luke-warmness we evinced in the legitimate furtherance of our own cause. The zeal and exertions made by others, for literary and religious improvements, became not only as stimulants to our zeal, but as reproaches upon our apathy; and a sense of duty to ourselves—to those who craved for the means of further instruction—and to that Church, whose doctrines must solace us in this, and cheer us in our progress to a better world—directed our thoughts to the metropolitan of Ireland, enlightened by the talents of its hierarchy, and consecrated by the sanctities of our Faith. The hope which the attention of that Reverend Dignitary to our affairs so sanguinely excited, derived animation and strength from the arrival of your Reverend Colleague and yourself—on the extended scene of your ministry,—the prompt

and early purposes evinced by your organization of those institutions of our Church, so practically fitted for the inculcations of its tenets and lessons, which we now see in existence. The establishment, in the more solemn seasons of the year, of those practices and services of our Ritual, which the pious wisdom of our ancestors loved to cherish and transmit for our edification;—the institutions of literary and academic knowledge, which, with the aid of a liberal Legislature, acting upon the increasing industry and zeal of its officers, has given such ample promise of benefit and eminent usefulness to our children—all concurred to compensate us for the solitudes and anxieties which had so long waited upon the previous interval of our dependent and inert state. We felt as if we had been made sensible to the obligations of our own accountability, and as if we had begun humbly to aid in the working out of that self-improvement, so long and so culpably neglected. But permit us, Reverend Sir, now to say, with unfeigned bitterness of feelings, in the language of sorrow, not the accents of anger, that our good aims and purposes seem doomed to discomfiture and defeat, and that we turn with unsuppressed depression of heart, to contemplate a relapse into a condition from which we fondly hoped to be emerging. However, as Catholics, warmly interested in the fortunes of St. Mary's, and sanguinely hopeful of yet more auspicious events than those that have hitherto attended our exertions; after deep and mature thought, we have been impelled by that undeviating attachment to our Faith, that inalienable love for our Church and its institutions, which ever has been found to characterise the various communities of the Catholic World, to seek other and more wholesome counsel; and though necessity has imposed upon us the duty of now expressing our farewell, whether a more benign aspect of our fortunes may present



a renewal of your ministry—a consummation not un- encouraged by the high and sanguine aspirations of a hope, which even a legitimate deference to authority does not exclude,—yet we assure your Reverence that wherever your steps may be directed, our affections and esteem will ever accompany you; and that neither in the acts nor language of this Parish, at any time, will you find cause to feel regret at your connection with those whom you now leave, either as a gentleman, or as a Priest of our Holy Church.

### THE REPLY.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

THE address now before me, emanating from so large and so influential a portion of the inhabitants of the City of Halifax—containing so many sentiments of warm affection and earnest regret—dictated by the impulse of noble and generous hearts, and conveyed in so kind and complimentary a manner, is at once worthy of the high character for generosity and benevolence so universally earned, and so unanimously conceded to the natives and descendants of the Emerald Isle; and would prove a source of high gratification and honest pride to any man, no matter how exalted his station. Grateful, then, must I feel, in thus becoming the object of your respect and esteem, while conscious of having done nothing to merit either, unless that which the duties of his sacred calling renders so incumbent on the minister of the Gospel. It is only one proof more that efforts, however humble, will be appreciated by a people, the depth of whose religious feeling draws a veil over the defects of the minister, and ren-

ders them sensible only to the honest sincerity with which he discharges the duties of his office.

Your allusion to a period preceding that of my arrival in Nova Scotia, calls back to my remembrance the mingled feelings of painful regret and holy anticipation, with which I first determined upon abandoning my native country. The proverbial attachment of Irishmen for the "land of their fathers" might be some extenuation, if I then was the subject of a pang, which Irishmen will always feel; but I must say that the sundering those ties, natural and domestic, which resulted from my determination, was rendered much less painful, by the wants which I was called on to remedy, and the hopes which I dared to indulge. When, at the request of the Rev. Mr. O'Brien, and under the auspices of the sainted Prelate of Ireland, I resolved upon going "forth out of my country and kindred to come to the land which the Lord had shewn me" I felt, that, however strange the land—strangers its people could not be. The letter of your Bishop, to whose prayer my coming was a response, said that I came to "correspond with the desires and advance the interests of my countrymen here," and while I do confess that I felt pride in being associated with those holy men, who in times ancient and modern went forth with all the energies of grace and all the light of learning, from the "Island of Saints," to do the work of the ministry, I felt a mingled happiness, that this labour was to be for the benefit of my brethren and their descendants. I came, Gentlemen, and I found an Ireland—still the same devoted attachment to your faith—the same energetic firmness in carrying out the ameliorations which its ministers suggested—the same fervid correspondence with the grace of Heaven, which have ever characterised your country, have been prominently exhibited by you.

For those institutions to which my humble instrumentality may have contributed, you are indebted to yourselves;—to cherish and support them will be the best proof of the flattering estimate which you form of their humble projector. We certainly have achieved some good; and now, at the moment of separation, let us thank Heaven that if more has not been effected, and if our holy progress be even partially suspended, we cannot accuse ourselves. We may have reason to complain of the same things which opposed the apostle of nations before us; but let us hope that Providence, in its own good time, will remedy the evil to which we have been obliged to submit.

Your reference to the kindly sympathies and enlightened liberality of our friends of other denominations, is, Gentlemen, grateful to me and honorable to you; and I am proud to add the testimony of personal experience to the truth of the character which you have given of them. Sincere in the profession of their own creed, they are tolerant of those of others, and show that however they may differ in dogmas, their charity is the same. Whenever it may please Heaven to fix the scene of my future labours, I shall never forget the fraternal spirit which in Halifax has realised the vision that fancy pictured to the poet of our creed and country:

"The various tints unite,  
And form in Heaven's light  
One arch of peace."

Education has ever been a leading object of Catholic exertion. Your enthusiasm in its support only proves that you are worthy of its blessings. Your College has realised for your population a greater share of public benefit than its most ardent supporters could have expected; and while my position and relations rendered me unable to contribute little more than my good wishes to its success, I am happy that your appreciation of its merits makes

a worthy return to its Superior and my friend, whom I regret to leave behind. And now, Gentlemen, it only remains for me to say farewell. The poignancy of regret at parting must be increased by the deep impression of your many virtues; but the same cause shall tend to increase our joy should Heaven so ordain that we shall meet again. The hope of such an event, to which you kindly gave expression, it is not my province to favour. If, however, an overruling Providence shall desire such an event, and legitimate authority sanction it, no sacrifice of feeling, or of personal interest on my part, shall be an obstacle to my re-union with friends, well beloved and ever to be remembered. For the present I depart for the head of all Churches. At the shrine of the Apostle I shall breathe a prayer for the eternal and temporal interests of Nova Scotia. Farewell.

(Signed)

L. J. DEASE, O. S. F.

On motion of the Hon. M. TOBIN, sen.;

Seconded by Mr. T. KENNY—

Resolved, That the Reverend Mr. Dease, on his arrival in Dublin, be requested to place himself in communication with his Grace the Most Reverend Dr. Murray, Archbishop of Dublin, and the other Dignitaries of our Holy Religion, in Ireland and after a fair, candid, and full statement of our condition and necessities, be guided by their counsel and advice, as to the most effective mode of accomplishing the purpose of his visit to Rome, for the purpose of submitting to the Holy See the circumstances of this Parish—its requirement, its resources, its wants—and the expedients for our relief; and that such further consideration of our claims be humbly and dutifully solicited as will tend to replace the temporal and spiritual interests of our sacred Faith in this country upon a basis of sup-

port and improvement, commensurate with that love for our Church and desire for its security and extension, which has ever characterised the Catholics of this Province.

The Chairman declining to put the above Resolution, from delicacy to his Lordship the Bishop, and which the Meeting fully appreciated, it was offered by the Secretary, and passed unanimously.

On motion of Mr. P. FURLONG ;

Seconded by the Hon. M. TOBIN, jun.—

Resolved, That, in order to carry out the purport of the above Resolution, a Committee, consisting of thirty of the Parishioners, be appointed to draw up a Report of the state of this Parish, to be handed to the Rev. Mr. Dease.

Passed unanimously.

The following gentlemen were appointed such Committee :—

Honble. MICHAEL TOBIN, Senior.

L. O'C. DOYLE, ESQUIRE.	Mr. P. SWAINE.
Mr. THOMAS RING.	Mr. MICHL. BENNETT.
Hon. MICHAEL TOBIN, junr.	Mr. P. POWER.
Mr. E. KENNY.	Mr. B. O'NEIL.
Mr. M. MALONEY.	Mr. D. CRONAN.
Mr. JAMES C. TOBIN.	Mr. P. COSTIN.
Mr. PETER FURLONG.	Mr. R. CUNNINGHAM.
Mr. DANIEL CREAMER.	Mr. JOHN ROCHE.
Mr. JAMES C. WALLACE.	Mr. M. DEFREYTAGS.
Mr. WM. DILLON.	Mr. P. WALSH.
Mr. THOS. KENNY.	Mr. THOS. FIELDEN.
Mr. PETER MORRISSEY.	Mr. PETER GRANT.
Mr. JAMES COCHRAN.	Mr. JER. CONWAY.
Mr. WM. SKERRY.	Mr. WM. BARRON.
Mr. JOHN NUGENT.	Mr. WM. DONOVAN.
Mr. THOS. S. TOBIN.	Mr. JOHN QUINN.

On motion of Mr. T. KENNY ;

Seconded by Mr. M. MALONEY—

Resolved, That Copies of the proceedings of this Meeting, with the Petition to, and Answer from, the Bishop, and the Letter and Address to the Rev. Mr. Dease, and Report of the Committee, be transmitted to his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, the Bishops of Quebec, Boston, Montreal, New-York, and Charleston, with a request that his Grace and their Lordships will be pleased to exert their interest with the Holy See to remedy the evils of which we complain.

Passed unanimously.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS RING ;

Seconded by Mr. R. CUNNINGHAM—

Resolved, That a letter expressive of the obligations we owe to his Grace for the kind interest which he evinced in the selection of the Clergymen which his Lordship sent at our request to this Parish, and of unmingled regret, that their situation here has been rendered so uncomfortable as to cause the withdrawal of one, and the possible retirement of the other, be addressed to his Grace the Arch Bishop of Dublin.

Passed unanimously.

## LETTER.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

WE, the the members of St. Mary's Parish, in the City of Halifax, Nova Scotia, cannot permit the untoward event of the Reverend Mr. Dease's departure to pass, without using the occasion it affords us to address your Grace. We earnestly beg your Grace to be assured that the zeal and promptitude with which our application for relief in our spiritual deficiencies was received and complied with in 1838, still remains engraven on our minds in characters too deep to be easily effaced. On this behalf we tender unfeignedly this feeble tribute of our feelings, and offer, in the earnestness of our hearts; this deeply felt assurance of our gratitude. We are compelled by the dictates of that Faith whose influences must govern us into forbearance and silence amidst hardships and the sense of injustice, to submit to the event which now dooms us to a separation from one of those gentlemen who were induced through your agency, undertaken at our instance, to participate in the responsibilities of this mission. The alleged grounds of dissatisfaction and complaint, with the various matters since the arrival of that Reverend Gentleman which have produced his present determination, will, we are assured, be fully explained; and as your Grace will not fail to perceive that in many cases there be much not immediately proper for laical comment, any reference to them would be here out of place. To the statement of our Parochial condition, which by the earliest opportunity we shall transmit,

your Grace's attention will be humbly invited. The subject will, we doubt not, secure to itself that attention which its seriousness requires. The object of the Rev. Mr. Dease's visit, whom we thus affectionately commend to your Grace for government and counsel, will, we know, be explicitly given to your Grace; and we conclude with assurances, that with the willingness and blessing of Heaven, we shall await in a spirit of patience and submissiveness the result.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves,

With every sentiment of respect,

Your Grace's humble servants,

(Signed)

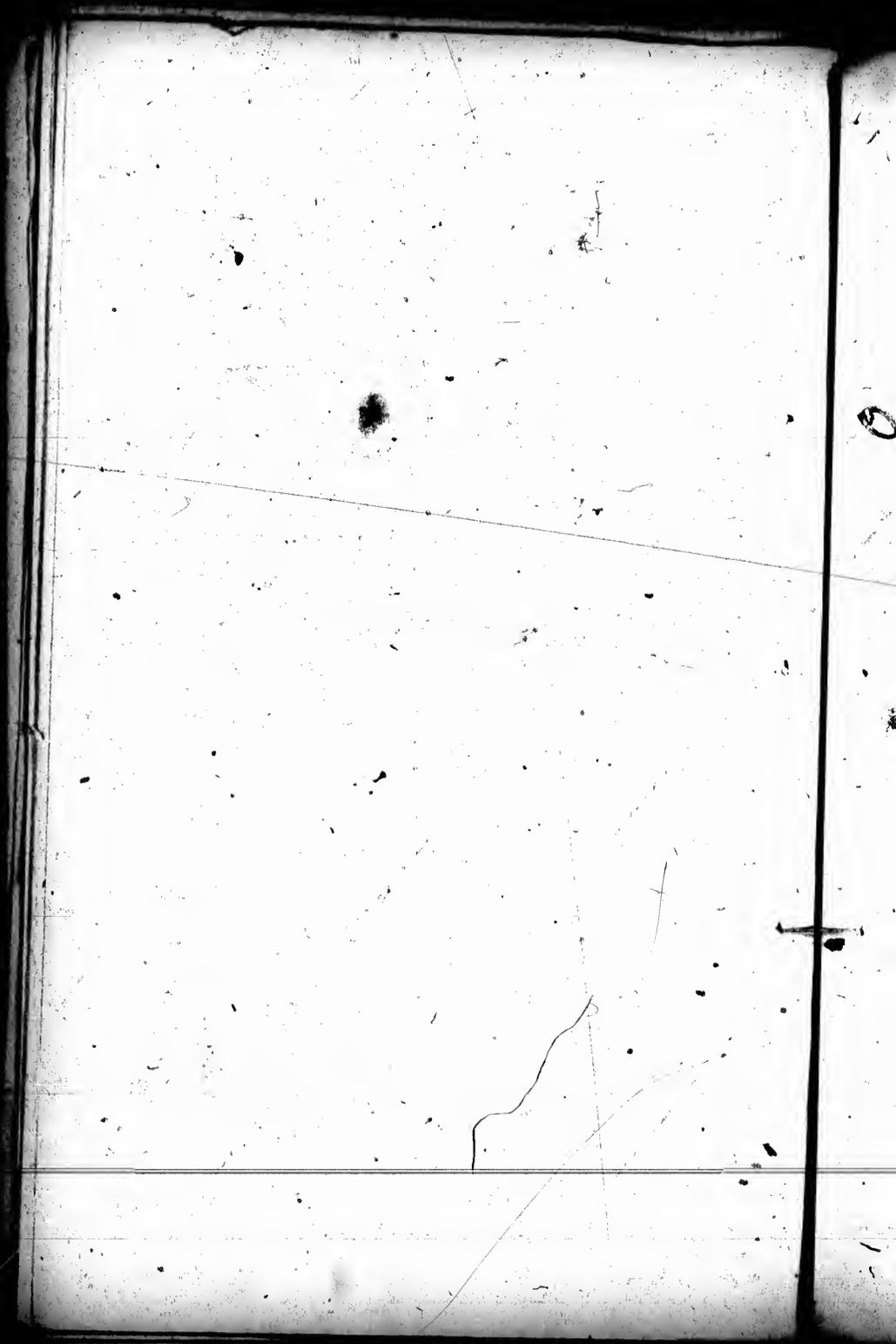
MICHAEL TOBIN, SEN.,

*Chairman.*

(Signed)

L. O'CONNOR DOYLE,

*Secretary.*



xvii.

A.

The following extracts from the Parish Records, are referred to in the foregoing Report :

HALIFAX, 8th April, 1838.

At a meeting of the Wardens and Electors, held this day, after Parish Mass—

Resolved, That the Rev. Mr. Laughnan and the Warden in Charge be requested to address a letter to the Right Rev. Dr. Fraser, respectfully pointing out the necessity for additional Clergymen in this Parish, and expressing the readiness of the Wardens and Electors to make respectable provision for such.

Approved,

J. LAUGHNAN.

B.

Copy of a Letter addressed to the Right Rev. Dr. Fraser, in conformity with the Resolution passed by the Wardens and Electors, on the 8th instant :

HALIFAX, April 10, 1838.

RIGHT REV. DEAR SIR,

We are now driven to the necessity of addressing you, by the unanimous voice of the Wardens and Electors, at their regular meeting on Sunday last, 8th instant,— and we are glad to say, none more cordially urged the propriety of an appeal to your Lordship than the Rev. Mr. Laughnan. Every shilling of debt due of the Church has been liquidated, and the whole establishment is in perfect repair. The Revenue is good, and paid with punctuality.

The want of spiritual aid and instruction is in a great measure withheld from the people, by the impossibility of one Clergyman discharging all the various duties

required by so numerous a congregation; and it is our opinion, that to the zeal of our present incumbent in his efforts to satisfy every call, may be attributed the late tedious illness, which for some weeks deprived the Parish of his services, and, we regret to add, his illness still continues, and that for the last two Sundays, since the Rev. Mr. Geary retired, we have been without service. It is then our duty to make known our wants to your Lordship, and to entreat your best exertions to procure for us two Clergymen from the old Country. We hear of their going from there every part of the world, and cannot believe that any place is more in want than this part of your Lordship's Diocese. The number of youth, of both sexes, growing up here, destitute of proper instruction; must produce evils that, to a thinking mind, are capable of creating the most painful alarm. The means necessary to defray the expenses of introducing those gentlemen are at your Lordship's service. By a speedy attention to this request, we can truly say, you will be conferring a blessing upon thousands.

We have the honor to remain,

Your Lordship's obedient servants,

(Signed)

J. LAUGHNAN, P. P.

EDWARD KENNY, *Warden in Charge.*

WILLIAM SKERRY,

PETER FURLONG,

DANIEL CREAMER,

} *Wardens.*

To the Right Rev. Dr. FRASER, Antigonish.

C.

HALIFAX, July 8th, 1838.

At a Meeting of the Wardens and Electors, held in the Small Chapel, after High Mass, present—the Right Rev. Dr. Fraser, the Rev. Mr. Laughnan, P. P., in the Chair,—

Resolved, That the Warden in Charge be authorized to purchase a Bill of Exchange for a £100 Sterling, to be handed to the Right Rev. Dr. Fraser, to be by him transmitted to Messrs. Wright & Co., Bankers, London, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of two Clergymen from *England, Ireland, or Scotland.*

Approved,

J. LAUGHMAN.

Resolved, That the following persons be a Committee to consult with the Bishop, the Salary likely to be paid to the expected Clergymen, and the duties to be assigned them on arrival:—Rev. J. Laughnan, P. P., Hon. Michael Tobin, Sen., Lawrence O'Connor Doyle, Esq., Michael Tobin, Junior, Edward Kenny.

Approved,

J. LAUGHMAN.

D.

LONDON, 9th August, 1838.

MESSRS. J. &amp; M. TOBIN,

Gentlemen,—We beg to acknowledge your favor of the 20th inst., enclosing a remittance, value One Hundred Pounds, for the credit of the Account of the Right Rev. Doctor Fraser.

We remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)

WRIGHT &amp; Co.

£100 on Bank of British North America, 60 days sight.

P. S. Be so good as to inform his Lordship that we shall have much pleasure in conforming to his instructions, (as conveyed in your letter) as to the disposal of the above remittance.

HALIFAX, 25th Sept. 1839.

At a meeting of the Wardens and Electors, held in accordance with a Requisition signed by nearly all the body, to consider of matters deeply affecting the welfare of the Parish, it was moved by Mr. Creamer, and carried unanimously, that the Rev. Mr. O'Brien be requested to come before the Body, for the purpose of declaring the causes which have led to a determination on his part to leave the Parish. Michael Tobin, Junr. and Mr. William Skerry, were appointed to wait on the Rev. Gentleman, who immediately acceded to their wishes.

Approved;

J. LAUGHMAN.

HALIFAX, 14th October, 1839.

At a Meeting of the Wardens and Electors held this day in the Small Chapel, called by a requisition to the Warden in Charge, it was moved and carried that a Remonstrance be sent to the Bishop, having for its object the retention of the Rev. Mr. O'Brien in this Parish.

Passed unanimously.

Resolved, That a Committee of five, viz :—Hon. Michael Tobin, Daniel Creamer, Michael Tobin, Junr. Edward Kenny, and William Skerry, be appointed to carry the above into effect.

Resolved, That the above Remonstrance be forwarded by a Special Messenger to His Lordship without delay, and that the expenses of the journey be defrayed out of the Parish Funds.

Resolved, That Mr. Daniel Creamer be requested to convey the Remonstrance to His Lordship.

Passed unanimously.

Approved,

J. Laughnan.

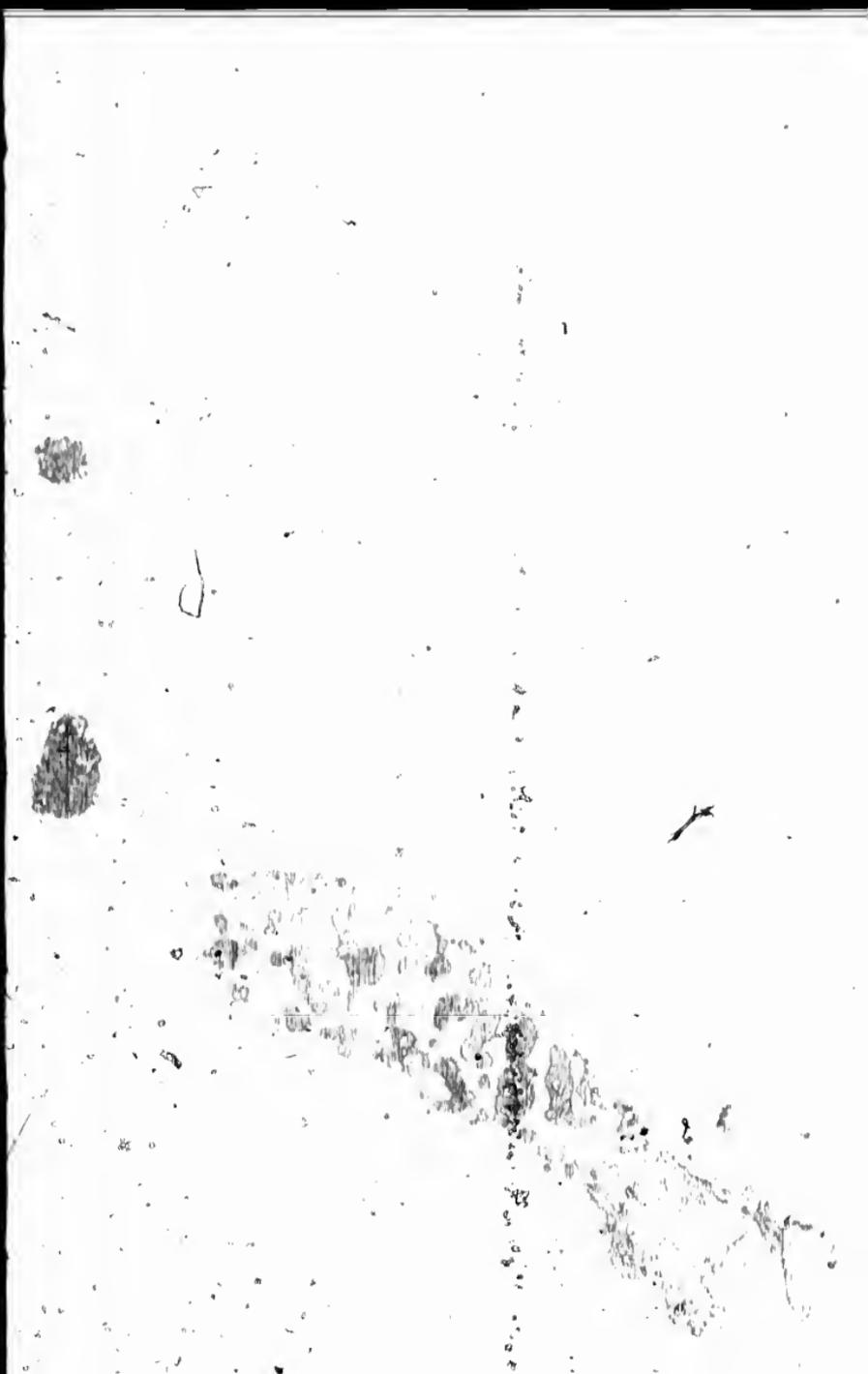
G.

We, a Committee of the Wardens and Electors of St. Mary's Church, appointed at a Special meeting of that Body, held yesterday in the Small Chapel of the Glebe, beg most respectfully to approach your Lordship, on the present state of affairs in this Parish—

We have learnt that the Rev. Mr. O'Brien, with a due sense of spiritual authority, has written for your Lordships entire sanction and countenance to the Institution which is about to be commenced, without which he cannot prudently proceed in the undertaking, nor even remain in the country.

Your Lordship is fully aware of the anxiety which pervaded this Parish, to procure the assistance of two Clergymen from Ireland, and the pleasure they experienced in the promptness with which your Lordship seconded their views. The selection made, shows how well our wishes had been carried into effect by Dr. Murray.

Your Lordship was witness to the brilliant display of the talents and acquirements possessed both by the Rev. Mr. O'Brien and the Rev. Mr. Dease, on the first occasion which offered after their arrival. The long cherished hopes of the Parish were raised to the highest, our anticipations appearing about to be realised to the fullest extent, morning and afternoon our Church was crowded to excess, the happiness of the people was complete. Many who for years had not been present at Vespers, were now constant in their attendance, and all these effects



have been produced by the zealous preaching and endearing demeanour of the two gentlemen, to whom reference has already been made.

Surely your Lordship will not now, when the cup of our joy is filled to the brim, permit it to be dashed from our lips,—your Lordship will not allow our delight and gladness to be turned into grief and heart scaldings. We have too firm a reliance on the goodness of your Lordship's heart to do any thing interfering instantly to avert the evil we have so little reason to apprehend. What would our dissenting Brethren say, after they have with such amazement witnessed the change which a few weeks has wrought in the congregation,—would they not deride and scoff at us? Would we not become a laughing stock to them? In what manner could we address Dr. Murray? Could we thank him for having exerted himself to procure two gentlemen of high character and eminent talents, and three weeks after their arrival in this land, to allow them to quit our Shores?

Humbly and respectfully do we throw ourselves at your Lordship's feet, to entreat, to supplicate, that your Lordship will not suffer the Rev. Mr. O'Brien to depart from us, but that you will be pleased to extend to him your confidence and your support, and that you will confirm him and the Rev. Mr. Dease most fully in their stations.

Deeply sensible of the vast importance of this matter, to the well-being of Catholicity in this town, and dreading the scandal which may arise, the Wardens and Electors have deemed it necessary to intrust this document to Mr. Daniel Creamer, who will present it to you, and to whom we beg to refer your Lordship for a confir-

information of our statements. We beg also to enclose a copy of the proceedings at the meeting held yesterday.

Praying a favourable consideration of our case,

We beg to subscribe ourselves,

Your Lordship's humble servants,

MICHAEL TOBIN, Son.

MICHAEL TOBIN, Jr.

EDWARD KENNY,

WILLIAM SKERRY,

D. CREAMER.

(Signed)

Approved,

J. LAUGHAN.

K.

HALIFAX, July 13th, 1838.

TO THE RIGHT REV. DR. FRASER, BISHOP OF TANEN.

RIGHT REV. SIR,

Having been appointed by the Wardens and Electors of this Parish, a Committee to confer with you on the subject of procuring two Clergymen from Britain, for this part of your Diocese, the great want of which your Lordship sees in the same light that we do. We beg leave to suggest the following as our ideas of the persons most likely to suit the wants and accomplish the wishes of your people here.

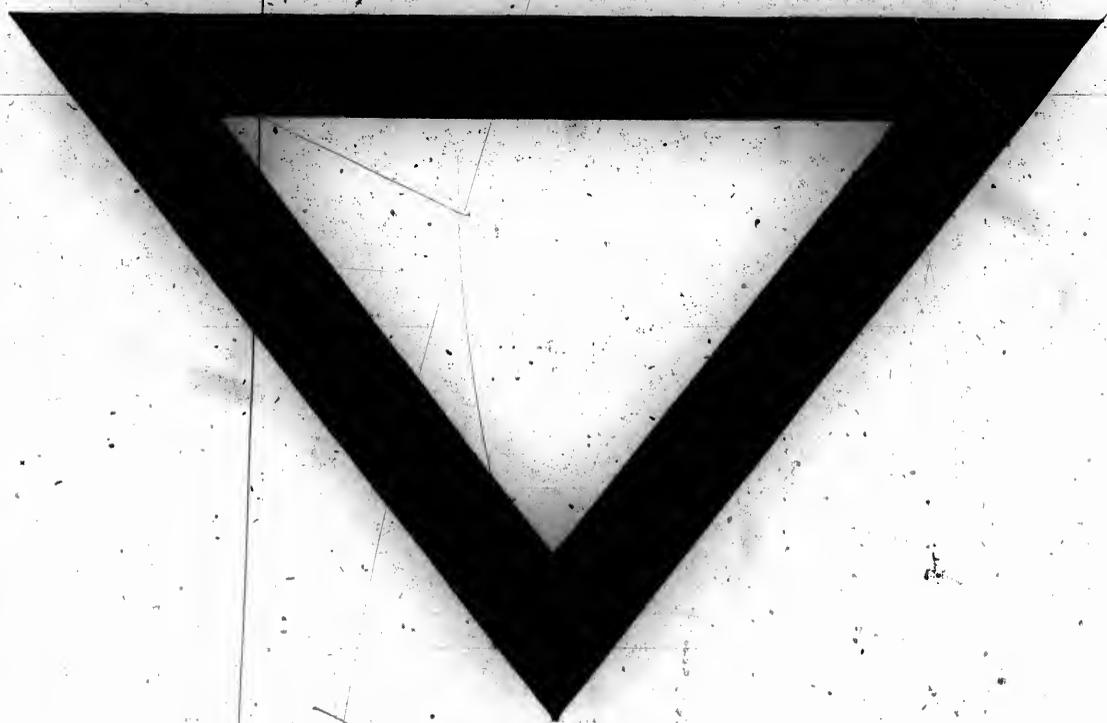
As a preliminary, we place in your hand a bill on London for One Hundred Pounds, sterling, which you will please to remit to Messrs. Wright & Co., of that city, for the use of those gentlemen, to provide them with passages, &c. One of these gentlemen to be of experience, and well qualified as a Pastor, to explain and expound the principles of our Holy Religion, to the numerous and fast rising population, which is now far too extensive (comprehending more than six thousand souls) for the one gentleman, to whom your Lordship has assigned the care of this

Parish, notwithstanding his zeal, piety, and unwearied exertions, to give them that attention which his love of piety would lead him to wish for. The other, we would think, might be a younger man, who would not object to take charge of a Seminary, from which a respectable portion of his Salary would be derived. Our Parish School is well conducted as far as Writing, Reading, and Arithmetic, but as Parents wish their children to progress, they are forced to send them to other places, not Catholic, for them.

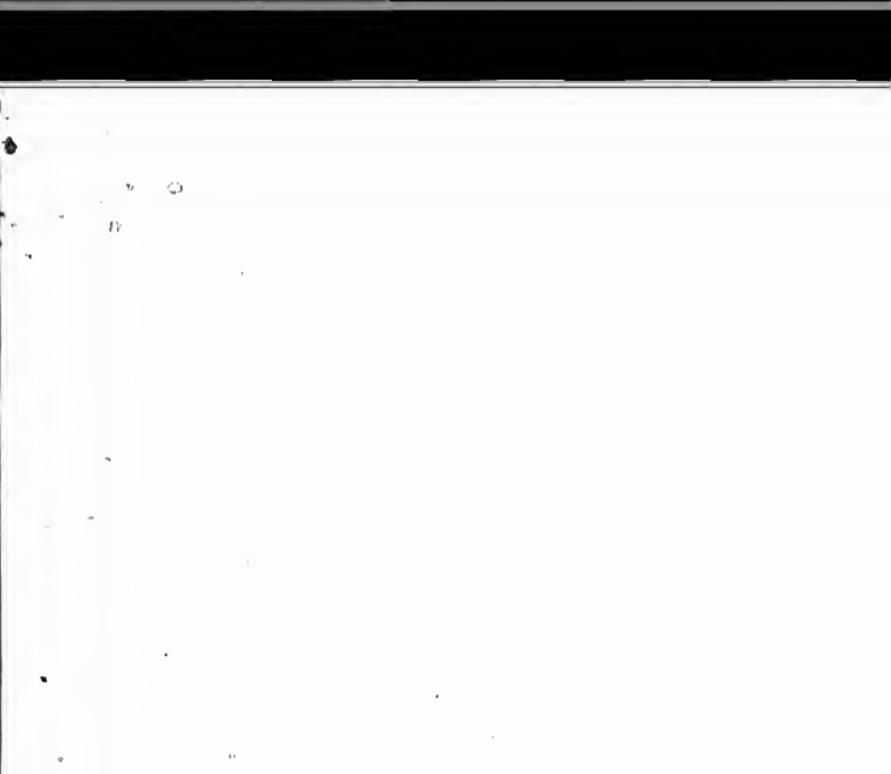
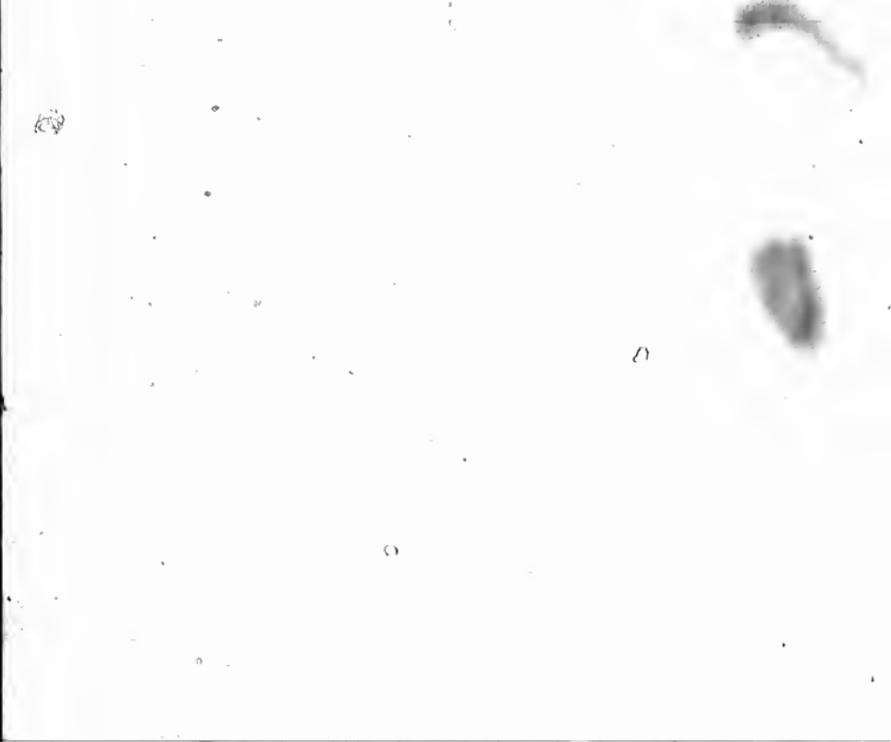
We think ~~Three~~ Three Hundred Pounds Currency, per annum, would be freely given, with comfortable lodgings in our spacious Glebe House. We are aware that this compensation would not be an object for two gentlemen to leave their comforts at home, but when we know that in all ages of the Catholic Church, the zeal of her Clergy has prompted them to lay every consideration prostrate when an opportunity offered of extending the Kingdom of their Heavenly Master, and as no part of this Continent seems to be more destitute of Spiritual help than this Parish of Halifax, the Capital of Nova Scotia, second to none in British North America, for numbers and respectability, we entertain and cherish the fond hope that your Lordship's application to some of the many Bishops, whose names must be familiar to you, will not be made in vain. As the Packet with Her Majesty's Mail will leave for England in a few days, we trust you will embrace the opportunity of writing by her for the purpose of meeting our wishes. Trusting the Almighty may bless and reward your labours, We have the honour to remain,

Your Lordship's Obedient and Humble Servants,

(Signed) JOHN LAUGHNAN, P. P.  
MICHAEL TOBIN, Sen.  
L. O'CONNOR DOYLE,  
MICHAEL TOBIN, Jr.  
EDWARD KENNY, } Committee.









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