

ed from the beginning, became inveterate. There have, I apprehend, at all times been clergymen who have been distressed by this inconsistency; and of late years it has been regarded by many excellent men as irreconcilable with the obligations which they took upon themselves on their admission into Holy Orders. Under the influence of these scruples, they thought it right to adhere as closely as possible to the letter of the rubric in their ministrations; whilst others of their brethren, not less conscientious, have been determined by considerations, in their estimation of great weight, to follow the usage which they found established in their respective churches. Under these circumstances a diversity of practice has arisen, which is not only inconsistent with the principle of uniformity maintained by the Church, but is sometimes associated in the minds of the people with peculiarities of doctrine, and gives birth to suspicions and jealousies destructive of the confidence which should always subsist between the flock and their pastor. To prevent the increase of an evil which might terminate in actual schisms was confessedly most desirable; and the most effectual mode of accomplishing the object, it has been thought, would be found in general conformity to the rubric. Universal concurrence in this easy and obvious regulation would have combined the several advantages of securing compliance with the law of the Church and of the land, of putting a stop to unauthorized innovations, and of excluding party distinctions, in their character decidedly unchristian, from the public worship of God; and I cannot but regret that measures which, with a view to these good purposes, have been recommended by high authorities, should not have been received with unanimous acquiescence, as the means of restoring order and peace, without any departure from the principles of the Church, or offence to the most scrupulous conscience.

The matters in controversy, considered in themselves, are not of vital importance: the services in our churches has in general been conducted in conformity to the Apostle's direction, with order and decency; and, whether performed with exact regard to the letter of the rubric, or with the variations established by general usage, will still be decent and orderly. I therefore entreat you to consider whether the peace of the Church should be hazarded by prolonging an unprofitable controversy, at a time, more especially, when her energies are directed, with such hope of success, to the promotion of religion and morals, and when the clergy and laity are zealously engaged in united exertions for the erection and endowment of churches and schools, and for other pious and beneficial objects, in almost every part of the country.

What I would most earnestly recommend for the present is, the discontinuance of any proceedings, in either direction, on the controverted questions. In Churches where alterations have been introduced with general acquiescence, let things remain as they are; in those which retain the less accurate usage, let no risk of division be incurred by any attempt at change, till some final arrangement can be made with the sanction of the proper authorities. In the case of Churches where agitation prevails, and nothing has been definitely settled, it is not possible to lay down any general rule which may be applicable to all circumstances. But it is too much to hope that those who are zealous for the honor of God and the good of his Church, will show, by the temporary surrender of their private opinions, that they are equally zealous in the cause of peace and charity?

On the particular questions which disquiet the public mind, I think it unadvisable to pronounce an opinion: Upon careful examination, I have found reason to think that some of these questions are more difficult of solution than is generally imagined, and that the meaning which occurs at first sight is not always the most correct. And the general question, in respect to what should be conceded to usage in controlling or modifying the written law, seems to me to be open to much doubt. But, if I were ever so fully persuaded in my own mind, I should be unwilling, for reasons already assigned, to pronounce a judgment, which, not having legal authority, might be accepted by some and disregarded by others, and might thus increase the confusion which it was designed to remedy. For similar reasons I have not thought it expedient to call the Bishops of my province together at this time, though it will be my desire, as well as my duty, to seek their advice and assistance, when a fit opportunity presents itself. I am, however, fully assured of their general concurrence in deprecating the continuance of discussions, which will undoubtedly multiply strife and contention, but which, in the present posture of affairs, can lead to no beneficial result.

February 19.

Legislative News.

New Brunswick:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, February 18.

Mr End, by leave, presented a Petition from John Frizel, together with ninety two others, Magistrates, Merchants and Freeholders of the County of Gloucester, praying that a grant may pass to remunerate the said John Frizel for services as a Courier between Pokemouche, Bathurst, and Shippegan, in the said County; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received and referred to the Committee appointed on the third day of February instant to take under consideration the subject of the

Post Office Establishment in this Province, to report thereon.

Timber and Lumber since the first day of May, 1843, by reason of the same not coming to market until after the period when the export duty Act came into operation; which he read. Ordered, That the said petition be received and referred to the same Committee to report thereon.

February 19.

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