

Communications.

Miramichi, New Brunswick,
May 25, 1846.

Mr Editor,

Pursuant to a Resolution passed at a meeting of members of the Church of England, on the 23rd inst., held in Chatham, I have to request that you will give publicity, in your paper, to the following minutes of proceedings, &c., in the order in which they are numbered and paged.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

CHARLES SIMONDS, Junr.,
Secretary.

To James A. Pierce, Esq.,
Editor of the Gleaner.

At a Vestry Meeting held in St. Paul's Church, Chatham, 20th January, 1846, pursuant to notice, The Reverend SAMUEL BACON, Rector, in the Chair—

PRESENT
John Wright, Esq., } Churchwardens,
Henry Cunard Esq., }
WESTRYMEN,
William Carman, William Letson, John T. Williston, James Johnson, Charles Simonds, Junr., Daniel Baldwin, Robert Coulson, Richard Traverse, and John Percival.

On motion of Charles Simonds, Junr. Esq., seconded by Henry Cunard, Esq.,

Resolved, that while we are firmly attached to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of which we are members, we gladly embrace the present opportunity of expressing our most unqualified disapprobation and rejection of the "Tracts for the Times," the object of which Tracts have been to create discord and division, to revive exploded errors, and to introduce dangerous and unscriptural doctrines into the Church, and which have been justly censured and condemned by the majority of the Venerable Bishops, both in the mother country and on the continent of America, and by the pious Laymen of the land.

Upon which, William Carman, Esq., moved the following amendment, which was seconded by James Johnson, Esq.

Resolved, that the resolution now before the Vestry, expressing our unqualified disapprobation of the Tracts for the Times, is a matter with which this Vestry, as a Corporate Body, have nothing to do, as it does not relate to the temporal affairs of the Church.

For the Amendment.—William Carman, James Johnson, John Wright, John Percival, Against the Amendment.—Charles Simonds, Junr., Henry Cunard, John T. Williston, Robert Coulson, Richard Traverse, Daniel Baldwin.

The Amendment was negatived.

The original resolution was then put and carried, the four gentlemen voting for the amendment declining to vote on the original resolution. The four gentlemen then handed in the following protest, which was entered on the minutes, and is as follows, viz:

We protest against the proceedings of this Vestry, because the resolution now before the Vestry does not relate to the temporal affairs of the Church, and therefore the Vestry, as a Corporate body, have nothing to do with it.

W. CARMAN, Junr.,
JAMES JOHNSON,
JOHN WRIGHT,
JOHN PERCIVAL.

Vestry Room, 20th January, 1846.

On motion of John T. Williston, Esq., seconded by Mr Robert Coulson,

Resolved, that the dissemination of the Tracts for the Times, and all others of a similar tendency, is highly injurious to the Church of Christ, baneful and pernicious to her members, is calculated to create divisions, to poison the minds of the people, especially the minds of the young, and, if persisted in, will gradually bring her members back to exploded errors and superstitions, and strike at the very existence of the Church.

Before this resolution was put, the four gentlemen who signed the protest, withdrew, and the Rector, who was in the Chair, immediately vacated the Chair, and stated that he coincided perfectly with the majority, and withdrew likewise. At this stage of the proceedings, Thomas Vondy, another Vestryman, made his appearance. Whereupon, and in the absence of the Rector, Henry Cunard, Esq., one of the Churchwardens, was called to the Chair.

The above resolution was again read, and passed unanimously.

On motion of Mr Robert Coulson, and seconded by Mr Daniel Baldwin,

Resolved unanimously, that we have, for some time past, witnessed with grief and pain the circulation of books and tracts by the Reverend James Hudson, acquired from a polluted source, having a direct tendency to propagate dangerous doctrines and practices, and to circulate error among the people: and we now firmly, but dispassionately, make a stand against their propagation, and shall, by every means in our power, resist their introduction and further spread.

On motion of William Letson, Esq., seconded by John T. Williston, Esq.

Resolved, that the Reverend James Hudson has, by his own admissions, confessed himself to be a "Tractarian," and from his having circulated tracts and books upholding their unscriptural and uncharitable doctrines, and from certain unscriptural and anti-Christian dogmas set forth on Sunday the eleventh of January, instant, in a sermon preached by the Reverend

James Hudson, this Vestry conceive it to be their imperative duty, that his conduct, principles, and doctrines, should be brought before the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, that his Lordship may call for the sermon, and take such steps in the matter as his Lordship may deem essential for the well-being of the Church, and the cause of truth.

Resolved, that the Clerk of the Vestry furnish the Reverend James Hudson with a copy of the foregoing resolutions, and that the Reverend Samuel Bacon, Rector, be requested, forthwith, to transmit a copy, with the proceedings of this meeting, to his Lordship the Bishop, for his action thereupon.

Resolved, that this meeting do adjourn.
HENRY CUNARD, Church Warden.
EDWARD WILLISTON, Vestry Clerk.

Saturday, 24th January, 1846.

My dear Sir,—Upon mature deliberation, I beg permission to decline transmitting the enclosed document to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

In much haste,
My dear sir, yours faithfully,
SAM. BACON,
To H. Cunard, Esquire, Church Warden.

Chatham, 24th January, 1846.

My Lord,—The enclosed resolutions, passed at a meeting of the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestry of St. Paul's Church, Chatham, I have the honor to forward to your Lordship, that duty having devolved on me in consequence of the Reverend the Rector of the parish having declined (as will appear by the note also enclosed) to be the channel of communication with your Lordship.

I most respectfully solicit on behalf of the Vestry, the attention of your Lordship to the subject matter of the resolutions.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your Lordship's very obedient servant,
HENRY CUNARD, Church Warden.
To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, &c.

Fredericton, February 12, 1846.

Sir,—I received some days since a letter from you, enclosing a document signed by yourself, and several other parishioners of Chatham. The resolutions were, as I understand, passed under protest from four of the Vestry, and during the absence of your Rector, who declined to continue in the chair. I regret to be obliged to remind you that a Vestry, as a corporate body, elected for the purpose of managing the temporalities of the Church, with powers defined and limited by the legislature of the province; and that the matters which you then took into your consideration were wholly out of your province. The power of examining into the conduct, and correcting the errors of the clergy, belongs to the Bishop; and I must respectfully decline entering into a discussion with you on such matters. Should it appear to me that any clergyman is circulating books injurious in their tendency, or contrary to the doctrines and discipline of our church, I shall desire him to withdraw them; but I am not aware that the Oxford Tracts, to which you have referred, are either lent or circulated by Mr Hudson, or by any clergyman in the province.

It will always be my duty to listen to any representations made by the laity of the province; but I entreat you to consider the evils which must result from the habit of meeting in Vestry to discuss what the law has placed out of your power. Differences already exist among yourselves on these points, and mutual suspicion, angry recrimination, and needless jealousies would ensue, where nothing but good will and charity ought to prevail. I shall hope to visit your parish in August next, for the purpose of holding a Confirmation, and shall be able to speak with you more fully at that time. I am, Sir, your obdt. servt.,
J. FREDERICTON.

H. Cunard, Esquire.

At a meeting of Members of the Church of England, held at Layton's Hotel, in the town of Chatham, on the 25th day of February, 1846, pursuant to public notice given therefor.

WILLIAM LETSON, Esquire, was unanimously called to the Chair, and
MR. CHARLES SIMONDS, Junr. was requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman explained the object of the meeting, whereupon, Edward Williston, Esquire, proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Robert Coulson, and passed unanimously.

Whereas from various changes having taken place in the mode of worship as heretofore accustomed in the Church of England in this County, and from the introduction and spread of Books and Tracts by The Reverend James Hudson, visiting Missionary, having a tendency to revive exploded errors and superstitions, to undermine the doctrines of the Church, and to create discord and disunion among the people, and from certain unscriptural and uncharitable doctrines set forth from the pulpit of St. Mary's Chapel, by the Reverend James Hudson, in a sermon preached by him on the 11th of January last, advocating and upholding Tractarian principles in their worst form, and of which principles the said Rev. Jas. Hudson had acknowledged himself to be the advocate; a number of the members of the Church of England, worshipping at Saint Paul's Church, and Saint Mary's Chapel, respectively, felt themselves imperatively called upon, respectfully, to bring the same before the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. And whereas, a Vestry Meeting was called in Saint Paul's church, Chatham, at the time notified by the Reverend Samuel Bacon, Rector, agreeably to law; and on the 20th day of January last the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestry, met in Saint

Paul's Vestry Room, to take the above matters into consideration, when a series of resolutions were adopted by the majority of the Church Wardens and Vestry, present, and the Rev. Samuel Bacon was requested by resolution, to forward the same to his Lordship the Bishop. And, whereas, at such meeting of Vestry, the minority of four protested against the proceedings, on the ground that the Vestry as a corporate body, had nothing whatever to do with any thing except the temporary affairs of the church, and in which the Rector coincided, and vacated the chair, and subsequently refused to forward the resolutions to his Lordship. And whereas, the said majority, feeling that they were actuated solely from a desire to maintain the Church of their Fathers, in her purity, and to stop the tide of innovation and change, setting in so rapidly upon the Church, and conscious that the mode adopted was the best calculated to bring the facts before his Lordship, without subjecting the Rev. James Hudson to unnecessary annoyance; and resolved that their object should not be frustrated by the refusal on the part of the Rector, at once determined to forward the same through the presiding Churchwarden, Henry Cunard, Esq. to his Lordship the Bishop. And Whereas, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, in answer to the said resolutions, hath determined that the matters referred to, were wholly out of the power of the Vestry as a corporate body, and as such declined entering into discussion with them on such matters, but at the same time stated, that it would always be his Lordship's duty to listen to any representations made by the Laity of the Province. And Whereas, in consequence of the decision arrived at by his Lordship in this most important matter, the majority of the Vestry, actuated by a desire to uphold the principles of the Church, unadulterated with Tractarian Heresy, are desirous that the whole facts connected with this matter, should in accordance with the decision of his Lordship, be laid before the Laity, in order that they may take such steps in the premises as are consistent with the facts of the case, and their duty as Parishioners; Therefore,

Resolved, That this meeting acknowledge with gratitude, the superintending care of the Churchwardens and Vestrymen, as a corporate body, in watching over the interests of the Church, and the cause of true religion, as this meeting is sensible that the course taken was adopted out of pure regard to the Clergyman's feelings, in not arraigning his acts before a public meeting, which becomes painful, not only to the Clergymen but to the Laity.

Moved by Henry Cunard, Esquire, and seconded by Mr Daniel Bulman, and unanimously Resolved.

That as recourse to a public meeting has become absolutely necessary from the decision of His Lordship, this meeting will not shrink from entering upon the subject above referred to, and however painful the result may be to a Clergyman professing to belong to the Church of England, and now eating the bread of Protestants, still a paramount sense of duty impels this meeting to enter upon the subject with calmness, but at the same time with firmness, and bring the facts again more prominently before His Lordship the Bishop.

Moved by John T. Williston, Esquire, seconded by William Salter, Esquire, and unanimously Resolved.

That while we are firmly and conscientiously attached to the Church of England, her doctrine, discipline, and liturgy, as we have been heretofore accustomed, until within the last three years, we lament to perceive that innovation is silently and stealthily finding its way within her bosom, that Exploded Errors are revived, that Churches are erected and decorated after the most approved Tractarian fashion, that heretical and dangerous doctrines are preached and enforced, that tradition is made to usurp the place of the Bible. These, and a multiplicity of other novelties, which are now rending the Church in Great Britain to her very centre, are rapidly extending themselves among us, and unless checked and totally uprooted, may strike at the very existence of the Church.

Moved by Mr James Ledden, seconded by Davis Hewson, Esq., and unanimously resolved—

That till within the last three years, great unanimity of feeling prevailed among Churchmen attending the churches in the parish of Chatham, which produced a general liberality towards the erection of churches, as well on this river as elsewhere; towards the support of the clergy, and other requisites of the church; besides building two churches in Chatham, and buying a Parsonage for the use of the Rector. That now the reverse is lamentably the case, proceeding wholly from the acts and words of the Reverend James Hudson.

Moved by Mr Charles Simonds, Junr., seconded by Mr Bartholomew Stapleton, and unanimously resolved—

That the Reverend James Hudson, Visiting Missionary, has for some time past most industriously circulated among the people, Books, Ballads, and Tracts, in great numbers, upholding and enforcing the Tractarian novelties, superstitions and heresies, alike offensive to churchmen, and others belonging to different congregations, and which are calculated to create jealousies, divisions and discord among the people, and to bring back the members of the church in their worship and discipline, to a period anterior to the Reformation.

Moved by Mr George Letson, seconded by Mr R. Robinson, and unanimously resolved—

That the Reverend James Hudson has most unequivocally admitted himself to be a Tractarian, and from his circulation of books publishing their opinions, and inculcating their heresies, this meeting is fearful that thereby the minds of the people, especially the young,

will become poisoned, and ultimately embrace error.

Moved by the Honorable Joseph Cunard, seconded by Charles J. Peters, Junr., Esq., and unanimously resolved.

That, in consequence of a sermon preached by the Reverend James Hudson, in St. Mary's Chapel, on the 11th of January last; (the doctrines propounded in which, a number of the hearers thereof deemed as most uncharitable and unscriptural, and totally at variance with the principles of the Church of England) great excitement and alarm had been created in the minds of the laity, that such alarm very generally prevailed, and to such an extent that in the event of the Reverend James Hudson being again allowed to officiate in this parish, a division in the Church would probably be the result; that notwithstanding which, the Reverend James Hudson has again obtruded himself upon the congregation of St. Mary's Chapel, to the grievous annoyance of a large part of them, and the actual prevention of others from attending Divine service, and that should the Reverend James Hudson persist in officiating in this parish, a great many of the congregation will be actually driven from the Church during his performing service. That for a length of time, during the present winter, the Reverend James Hudson has absented himself from his duty in his own churches, as well on Sunday as throughout the week, and basied himself in introducing innovation into the churches of this parish, and in the chapel of ease, in Chatham, in particular.

Moved by W. alter, Esq. seconded by Mr T. B. Maltby, and unanimously resolved.

That this meeting have given this matter very grave consideration, and the decision now arrived at has been come to after mature deliberation, and the result is that they now firmly but most respectfully make a stand against innovation of every description, either in doctrine or mode of worship, and they do this from a conviction, that if the course now pursued by the Reverend James Hudson, be persisted in, a dismemberment of the Church will be the result; but before this takes place, this meeting are induced most respectfully to appeal to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, in the earnest expectation that the case may be thoroughly investigated, and such a specific conclusion arrived at, as will settle the agitated question, restore the church to her wonted purity, prevent the propagation of Tractarian heresies, and the further spread of dangerous and mischievous Tracts, Ballads, and Books, and the introduction of novelties; and prevent, in future, the Reverend James Hudson from obtruding himself upon this parish, as his course has been so offensive to a majority of the laity, that his preaching cannot be tolerated.

Moved by H. Cunard, Esq., seconded by W. Salter, Esq., and unanimously resolved—

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Edward Williston, Esquire, for the manner in which he brought forward the first resolution, and for the very able, learned, and explicit remarks, with which he accompanied the same.

Moved by Mr J. E. Germaine, seconded by Mr W. Douglass, and resolved unanimously.

That a committee of four be appointed to prepare an address predicated on the foregoing resolutions, to be signed by them and the other members of this meeting, together with such other members of the Church of England attending the churches in the parish of Chatham, as coincide with these proceedings; that Wm. Letson, Henry Cunard, Edward Williston, and Charles Simonds, Junr., be such committee; and that the Secretary forward the same, together with the whole proceedings, and copies of documents read at the meeting, to his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese.

WILLIAM LETSON, Chairman.

Whereupon the chairman left the chair, and on motion of John T. Williston, Esquire, seconded by the Honorable Joseph Cunard, Mr James Ledden was called thereto, and the thanks of the meeting unanimously voted to William Letson, Esquire, for his able and impartial conduct in the chair, and to the Secretary for his services, and the meeting then adjourned.
CHARLES SIMONDS, Junr.,
Secretary to the meeting.

Miramichi, 26th February, 1846.

May it please Your Lordship,

At a large and influential meeting of the laity attending St. Paul's Church and St. Mary's Chapel, respectively, convened to take into consideration important matters connected with the interest of the church, a series of resolutions were adopted, which we now transmit to your Lordship.

Your Lordship will perceive that throughout the whole proceedings, we forebore most scrupulously to bring the name of the Reverend Samuel Bacon, Rector, before the meeting; though after the receipt of your Lordship's communication to Henry Cunard, Esquire, we were surprised at the communication which the Rector thought fit to lay before the meeting; and we deemed it our imperative duty to forward a copy of the same to your Lordships with the proceedings of the meeting.

We are deeply sensible that the questions mooted at the meeting, and herewith forwarded, are of a very serious nature; particularly as affecting the conduct and character of a clergyman of our church; still a sense of duty, and the cause of true religion, as opposed to error, impelled the laity not to shrink from the performance of a duty, however painful the result might be.

As a great excitement at present prevails that the Reverend James Hudson should be permitted to officiate at St. Mary's Chapel, to the great annoyance of a majority of the laity, we respectfully request your Lordship to give the subject matter of the proceedings your