

Newburgh, N.Y., January 4, 1895.

The Commission appointed by the Rt. Rev. H. C. Potter D.D., LL.D., Bishop of New York, met according to notice in the Parish House of St. Paul's Church, Newburgh, at 11.30 A.M.

Present: The Commission, consisting of the Rev. W. R. Thomas D.D., Archdeacon of Orange, the Rev. Samuel M. Akerly and Rev. Rufus Emery; the Complainants, C. D. Bruyn, F.J.R. Clarke, E.D. ~~Mulford~~ Mulford, J. Osterhoudt, Augustus Hayes, Andrew F. Mason; the Respondents, The Rev. L.T. Wattson, A.J. Philips, John E. Kraft, Ezra H. Fitch, J.J. Hall, John W. Kerr.

Mr. C.D. Bruyn on behalf of the complainants read a statement of the practices and teachings of the Rector, (the Rev. L.T. Wattson) of St. John's Church, Kingston, which ~~xxx xxxxxxxxxx~~ were considered objectionable, which statement was signed by C.D. Bruyn, F.J.R. Clarke, E.D. Mulford and A. Hayes. In support of this statement the complainants presented numbers of a Parish Paper called the "Pulpit of the Cross"; also a Catechism introduced and taught in the Sunday School; also ~~xxxx~~ two schedules of services of the Holy Cross; also petitions and statements signed by communicants and members of the Parish and also a statement containing names of members of the ~~Rxk~~ Parish who have withdrawn their pledges for the support of the Parish.

These papers having been read were presented as evidence of the practices and teachings of the Rector and of their effect on the Parish.

The Rector objected to that portion of the statement of the Complainants relating to the Holy Cross on the ground that that organization was independent of St. John's Parish.

That portion of the Complainants' statement relating to the resignation of Rev. Mr. Wattson as the only method of remedy for

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existing troubles was withdrawn by the Complainants.

The Rev. Mr. Wattson asked permission to make an explanation with reference to the Catechism offered as evidence of his teaching. He ~~xxii~~ said that as soon as certain things were brought to his notice he examined the book and found that it was not the book he had ordered and that he withdrew the catechism after it had been in use one Sunday and substituted the Trinity Catechism for it.

The Rev. Mr. Wattson also said in relation to the complaint that he had broken his promise made to a parishioner with reference to elevating the Sacrament, that if he had done so it was done through absence of mind or inadvertence.

With reference to the subject of Confession the respondents said that the Rector had not refused communion to those communicants who had not made confession. The Rector also stated that no one had been refused communion because he not been to confession.

The respondents were asked about the number of services in the Church. They stated that there were <sup>12</sup>~~nine~~ services during the month in which there were three in which the objectionable ritual was used. The remainder (9) were according to ritual ordinarily used in the Church.

The Commission asked of the persons present their opinion of the effect of the practices and teachings complained of, upon the material and spiritual welfare of the Parish.

The complainants stated that the practices and teachings had already been injurious and in their opinion would be more so in the future and referred to the paper which had been presented containing the names and contributions of those who had withdrawn their support.

The respondents stated that the practices and teachings had not been injurious and stated that the congregations had been larger than before and that at Christmas they had been able to



raise funds sufficient to pay the debt of the Parish and in their opinion would not be injurious in the future.

At this stage of the proceedings the respondents asked for an adjournment of the hearing in order that they might prepare and present their answers to the different points in the complaint as previous to the meeting they had not known the specific points of the complaint. The meeting was adjourned till Friday the 8th of February to meet at the same hour and place.

The Commission met after the adjournment of the hearing and considered the objection of Rev. Mr. Wattson with reference to the Holy Cross and made the following decision, viz:

The objection made by the Rev. Mr. Wattson with reference to matters connected with the Church of the Holy Cross has been carefully considered by the Commission and their decision is that as the Bishop's letter of appointment makes no mention of the Church of the Holy Cross, but only ~~xxx~~ of the practices and teachings in St. John's Church, and as the Holy Cross is independent of St. John's Parish, that the facts set forth in the complaint with reference to the Church of the Holy Cross do not come within the scope of this Commission.

This decision was communicated to the complainants and respondents by the Secretary.