

Mr. Pierre P. Irving.

New-York, March 25 1855.

DEAR SIR,

I have this day, on receiving the Canonical Certificate in your favour, from the Standing Committee of this Diocese, admitted you as a Candidate for Holy Orders; and would solicit your serious attention to the several provisions of the canons relating to Candidates.

You are to remain a Candidate for the term of three years, unless the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the clerical members of the Standing Committee, shall deem it expedient to ordain you, after the expiration of a shorter period; not less than one year.

You are to stand four examinations by the Bishop and his Presbyters, or by two or more Presbyters appointed by him.

The first examination will be on Natural Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, and Rhetoric, and the Greek Testament, ~~The canons also require, at this examination, that the Candidate "give an account of his faith in the Latin tongue." In compliance with this, you will, at your first examination, present a Latin thesis De~~ *The Hebrew Bible, and the Latin Vulgate.*

The second examination will be on the books of Scripture; you being required to give an account of the different books, and to explain such passages as may be proposed to you.

The third examination will be on the Evidences of Christianity, and Systematic Divinity.

The fourth examination will be on Church History, Ecclesiastical Polity, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and in this State.

At each of the above examinations, you are to produce and read a sermon or discourse composed by yourself, on some passage of Scripture previously assigned to you, ~~and another man also submit another as a paper~~ *submit by yourself.* In pursuance of this requisition of the Canon, I hereby assign the following passages for the sermons to be read at your examinations respectively.

At the first, *2 Samuel XXII. 29.*

At the second, *St. Matthew XIII. 31, 32.*

At the third, *1. Chronicles XIII. 10.*

At the fourth, *St. Matthew XIII. 33.*

In preparing for the above examinations, unless you belong to the General Theological Seminary, as it is my sincere wish that all the candidates of this diocese should, when not prevented by unavoidable circumstances, you will be governed by the course of study prescribed by the House of Bishops, and pursue it with the advice, and under the direction, of some Clergyman of our Church, if there is one whose residence is sufficiently convenient. And I shall also myself expect an account of your progress in study, either personally, or by letter, at least once in three months.

If you belong to the Theological Seminary, I trust you will leave no means untried to avail yourself of its very peculiar advantages, and will be true to your obligations to promote its reputation by fidelity to all the duties of its members.

As intrusted with the superintendence of Candidates for orders, it is my duty to exhort you to great industry in the prosecution of your studies, and to warn you against indulgence in any vain or trifling conduct, or in any amusements most liable to be abused to licentiousness, or unfavourable to that seriousness, and to those pious and studious habits, which become those who are preparing for the holy ministry. Especially would I press most seriously upon you, the duty of faithfully maintaining the character of a pious Christian, by cherishing an inward fear and worship of ALMIGHTY GOD; a love of religion, and sensibility to its holy influence; a habit of devout affection; and all those graces which are called in Scripture the fruits of the SPIRIT, and by which alone His sacred influences can be manifested. For these ends you will diligently seek the grace of God, in private prayer, in the public services of the Church, and in the devout participation of the Lord's Supper; you will carefully and constantly read the Holy Scriptures, and meditate thereon; and on the great required principle of the faith of the Gospel, strive to advance in that holiness of heart and life, and that singleness and purity of Christian motive, which are essential to a well-grounded trust that your call to the ministry is of the HOLY GHOST.

Commending you to the direction and blessing of ALMIGHTY GOD, I remain,

Your affectionate friend,

Reverend J. Doane
Bishop of the Diocese
of New York.

(over.)

P.S. I transcribe, for your further information,
the ninth section of the ninth Canon, of the General
Convention of 1832.

"If any candidate for orders shall not,
within three years after his admission, apply to
have his first and second examinations held, as
hereafter prescribed, or if he shall not, within
five years from his admission, apply to have his
third and fourth examinations held (unless the Bishop,
for satisfactory reasons, for to him assigned, shall allow
him farther time) the said person shall, in either
case, cease to be a candidate."

In preparing for the above examinations, which you belong to the General Theological Seminary, as it is my sincere
wish that all the candidates of this diocese should, when not prevented by unavoidable circumstances, you will be governed
by the course of study prescribed by the House of Bishops, and pursue it with the strictest and most diligent attention,
Christianity of our Church. If there is one whose residence is sufficiently convenient. And I shall be myself expect an
account of your progress in study, either personally, or by letter, at least once in three months.
If you belong to the Theological Seminary, I trust you will feel no want of means to enable you to avail yourself of its very peculiar
advantages, and will be true to your obligation to promote its reputation by fidelity to all the duties of its members.
As intrusted with the superintendence of the Seminary, it is my duty to expect you to exert industry in the
pursuit of your studies, and to warn you against indulgence in any vain or trifling conduct, or in any amusements
most liable to be abused to licentiousness, or unbecomingly in that respect, and to those places and studies habits
which become those who are preparing for the holy ministry. I especially would I press most earnestly upon you, the duty
of faithfully maintaining the character of a life of Christian by cherishing an inward love and worship of God;
a love of religion, and something to his holy religion; a habit of devout attention; and all those graces which are called in
Scripture the fruits of the Spirit, and by which alone the sacred influence can be manifested. For these ends you will
diligently seek the grace of time, in private prayer, in the public services of the Church, and in the devout participation of
the Lord's Supper; you will carefully and constantly read the Holy Scriptures and meditation thereon; and on the great
required principle of the truth of the Gospel, strive to advance in that holiness of heart and life, which is chosen and partly
of Christian motives, which are essential to a full ground that you call to the ministry is of the Holy Church.
Commending you to the direction and blessing of Almighty God, I remain,
Your affectionate friend,
Bp. Doane

Mr. Pierre P. Irving.

Wlster.