

CLERGY AND LAYMEN PLEDGE LOYALTY TO BISHOP STIRES

Church Club of Brooklyn Gives
Dinner in Honor of New Head
of L. I. Diocese at Hotel
St. George.

One of the largest assemblages of ministers and laymen of Protestant Episcopal churches of Long Island diocese gathered together last night at the Hotel St. George to pay honor to the Rt. Rev. Ernest M. Stires, Bishop of Long Island. The affair was conducted under direction of the Church Club of Brooklyn and served as an occasion for the clergymen of Bishop Stires' diocese to pledge their co-operation and support of the principles of their new head.

Several bishops of the church throughout the East attended the affair. A number of prominent men and women in all walks of life also added to the notable gathering. Letters of felicitation were received by Bishop Stires from all parts of the country and read to the audience by ex-State Senator William T. Tully, who acted as toastmaster. Among them were ones from the Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Molloy, Bishop of the R. C. Diocese of Brooklyn; the Rev. Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, Bishop Thomas F. Gailor, Bishop J. S. Lloyd and Bishop Shipman.

Previous to the dinner, which was attended by more than one thousand five hundred persons, who occupied every available space on the main floor of the hotel, Bishop Stires and his wife were given a reception in the Oak Room. A long line filed past the couple to shake hands with them and give their greetings. The room was banked high with floral tributes sent from all sections of the borough and Long Island.

The Rt. Rev. William T. Manning, bishop of the Diocese of New York, opened the dinner with an invocation. He delivered the grace in the absence of Bishop Gailor, who was unable to attend. The first speaker of the evening was the Rev. Jacob Probst, rector of Trinity Church of East New York. He spoke on behalf of the clergymen of the diocese and pledged the unwavering support of each minister behind the policies of the bishop. He presented Bishop Stires with a beautiful gold watch as a token of love from the clergy. An inscription and the coat of arms of the bishop's house were engraved on the watch.

"We wish you great happiness in your new work," said Dr. Probst, "and if there is anything we can do to help you, we are at your command. The clergy of the diocese have delegated me to express to you our sincere good will and to give to you our sincerest good wishes, best co-operation and loyalty, and we are determined to do our very best to aid you. As you come to your diocese you will find ample evidence of our good will and when you come to our parishes and into our homes you will also find good wishes. Right now you are beginning your work among us and we want you to have the physical and moral support and good will that is in our hearts. We present to you a token which will remind you in the years to come of the pledge we make to you now. It is something that is very useful and is of symbolic value to you in your work on Long Island."

The Rev. Harry A. Barrett, of Cold Spring Harbor, spoke of the "Diocese of the Past." He recalled a number of incidents of the past and referred to the rapid growth of the church in the last decade. He predicted a greater growth in the next five years, particularly under the guidance of Bishop Stires. The Rev. Dr. Frank W. Creighton, rector of St. Ann's Church and Bishop-elect of Mexico, spoke on the diocese of to-day. He told of the work being done by the church on Long Island at the present time and urged that this good work among the various institutions on the island be continued.

The Rev. Wallace J. Gardner, of St. Paul's Church, Flatbush, spoke on the subject of the diocese of the future. He predicted a wonderful future for the diocese of Long Island but declared that the future rested entirely in the hands of the laymen. He appealed to them to aid every cause that would further the ideals of the church.

The Rt. Rev. William T. Manning, Bishop of Diocese of New York and who until recently was Bishop Stires' superior, delivered a message of greetings and well wishes from the people of his diocese. He also brought the same message to the wife of Bishop Stires. He declared that, without the help from his wife, the bishop probably would not be where he is to-day. He remarked that the bishop through his inimitable personality had already endeared himself to the hearts of his people, as he had done when he was in New York Diocese.

"In the past years we have been very close friends, and I hope we will be very much closer in the days to come," he declared. "If at any time I can be of any service to you people, and should your bishop want me, or any one want me, I will do my best to come across," said Bishop Manning, after referring to the relations between the two dioceses.

"I wish to congratulate you with all my heart on your assumption of your new position. I am sure you will not find it a position of dignified ease and luxury that some people imagine it to be, but on the contrary it has sufficient rewards and joys and happiness. But for a life of ease, I find from my own experience, that I can not recommend it.

"We are opening up a great new chapter in the history of our church on Long Island under the leadership of Bishop Stires. There are three characteristics in the make-up of our bishop. To use the street vernacular, he is downright noble and tender, and is one who does not lack sympathy. He will not be a school of any group in the church. He will be the bishop of the whole diocese. He will administer to all regardless of the color or creed they may profess. He is equipped with a manner and loyalty in the ideas set forth in the Scripture. This is the sort of leadership the men and women of the church are looking for, and that they have a right to look for. We have not the slightest doubt as to where he stands, and it will be of great encouragement to us and God. May God give him strength and help to fill him with the spirit that will enable him to carry out that great vision that is his, and yours also."

The Right Rev. John Gardner Murray, Bishop of Maryland and who will become the head of the

Episcopal Church in America after the first of the year, spoke on the missions of the church. This occasion marked the first appearance of the bishop to this vicinity.

"The consecration of Bishop Stires was the high water mark of any consecration of any bishop in America. Never before in the history of the church were there thirty-five bishops present as there were when Bishop Stires was consecrated," he said.

When Bishop Stires attempted to express his appreciation for the wonderful ovation given to him, his lips quivered and his voice was full of emotion. He thanked the clergy for their support and also for their token, which he said he would cherish dearly. He paid a glowing tribute to his wife, to whom he gave much credit for his present success. The bishop pledged himself to carry on the work of his office with his full strength and to the best of his ability. He made his talk very brief owing to the lateness of the hour.

He urged all present to visualize the presence of the late Bishop Burgess, whom he succeeded, and whose work and administration he praised. He appealed to the lay members of the diocese to continue the works of his predecessor and overcome all obstacles in order to advance the church of God. The greatest work in which a human being can be engaged, he said, is that of working for God.

The committee in charge of the dinner included Spencer Aldrich, William M. Baldwin, Raymond F. Barnes, Charles Stewart Butler, Stephen Callaghan, E. C. Cammann, Col. William S. Cogswell, J. Sherlock Davis, E. A. Disney, Col. Jackson A. Dykman, Edward H. Floyd-Jones, Lewis W. Francis, Charles H. Fuller, J. Holsworth Gordon, Joseph J. Hart, Peter Hamilton, George Hewlett, Henry L. Hobart, F. P. Hoffman, William S. Hubbard, Walter Jennings, Christopher Joost, Howard D. Joost, Jacob C. Klinck, David H. Lanman, William F. Leggo, Walter R. Marsh, Stephen Edward Nash, Robert L. Pierrepont, C. H. Pinkham, Harry Pelham Robbins, W. Emlen Roosevelt, J. Joseph Rossbottom, Origen F. Seymour, Townsend Scudder, Arthur W. Sullivan, William J. Tully, Luther Werner, George W. Wickersham, Charles N. Wysong and Walter H. Young.