



St George's Parish, Dublin

Vestry Meeting

Dublin Morning Register, Friday 11 April 1828, page 3

ST. GEORGE'S PARISH.

VESTRY MEETING.

On Tuesday, soon after twelve o'clock, the Parishioners assembled in the Vestry-room, in such numbers that an adjournment to the Church became requisite, whither they accordingly proceeded.

The attendance of the respectable Parishioners of the Pariah was most numerous. The Attorney General was present, and took a part in the discussion: the number of Roman Catholics was inconsiderable. We only noticed Mr. O'Reilly, Counsellor Scanlan, Mr. Brown, and another gentleman.

The Rector, the Rev. Mr. Bushe, took the Chair.

Some desultory conversation took place relative to the proceedings of the day before.

The Rev. Mr. Bushe then read the notice specifying the particular objects for which the Vestry was assembled under the act of the 4th of the King, which was in substance, for the assessing a rate to provide coffins for the poor, the rent of an Engine-house, salary for an Organist, and remuneration to the Curates for early service. Having stated the objects for which the Parish was assembled, he hoped there would be no objection to taking the last item in the notice first.

The imposition of a rate to provide a salary for an Organist to be appointed, next occupied the attention of the meeting. On the Chairman introducing the subject, Mr. Bayley wished to know what authority law gave them for the imposition of a rate for such a purpose?

The Chairman replied — the necessity of music in the celebration of Divine Worship was not to be doubted. They had an organ, and it could not be used without the assistance of an organist.

Mr. Goddard proposed that the sum of £50 be assessed for this purpose.

Mr Twigg seconded the motion. He would not consent to give more, as he found the £36 voted yesterday for teaching Psalmody, was given to the Clerk. He must say he was not aware that such was the disposition intended when he voted this sum.

Mr. Murphy complained of the appropriation of this last mentioned sum. He would not agree to give more than £50 to an organist.

Mr. Thorpe was not aware at the time that such a disposition was meditated. He thought the sum proposed sufficient.

The Rev. Chairman replied — the object was distinctly stated, and read the entry of the vote made; it was too late now to complain.

Mr. Alderman West thought it would be better to sell the organ, and place the amount to the credit of the parish. No man competent to play on the magnificent instrument before them, could be had for less than £100 a year. This was not a common organ, it was an instrument of a peculiar make,

possessing a great range, with stops and pedals of powerful capacity, requiring not only great talent, but great powers to manage.

Mr. Haddick (Barrister) proposed that the sum of £80 be voted as salary for an Organist, and £28 for keeping the organ in order. This proposition would, he hoped, restore good humour.

Mr. McCulloch (Builder) said, he perfectly recollected that last year the Attorney-General said the parish should make it worth Mr. Bunting's while to accept the office; now he heard Mr. Bunting would be satisfied with the sum of £50. He saw no occasion to give more; there was no more given in Mary's parish.

Mr. O'Reilly said, that in vindication of his own rights, and those of his fellow-parishioners of the Roman Catholic persuasion, who had no desire to hear this wonderful instrument, he would, to get rid altogether of the rate, which he held to be illegal, as well as oppressive, in the shape proposed, move the previous question.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

The Rev. Chairman put the question, and declared the Noes had it; he asked if Mr. O'Reilly wished for a division.

Mr. O'Reilly would divide the meeting to ascertain the numbers, or would adopt any other mode less calculated to give trouble.

A show of hands was then agreed on. On counting, there appeared only those of the proposer and seconder, when the Chairman declared the question lost.

The question was next put upon Alderman West's amendment, as amended by Counsellor Haddick.

The Chairman declared for the Ayes. A division was called for.

After much delay, the tellers reported the numbers – Ayes, 35; Noes, 47; and the Chairman declared the Noes had it.

The high salary men were in the minority.

Transcribed by David Byers, August 2018