

Church property, and provides for ecclesiastical discipline ; also combines the sympathies and energies of the clergy and laity in the extension of the ordinances of the Church throughout the colony. The subsequent adoption by the Synod of a deed of trusts, bringing the Churches into union with that body, and defining the terms on which the clergy enjoy their temporalities, leaves, it is believed, little to be done as regards the regulation of the internal affairs of the diocese.

But, fully alive to the fact that this diocese forms only a small portion of the Australian branch of the United Church of England and Ireland, and feeling that there are divers matters of vast importance to the general interests of these dioceses, which can be provided for only by mutual conference and compact, we venture to express our earnest hope that your lordship's visit may tend to the furtherance of this object, by at least initiating arrangements for the establishment of a Provincial Synod, in which the several estates of the respective dioceses may be duly represented.

In the afternoon of the same day the Metropolitan held a Visitation in Christ Church, and delivered his Charge, which is about to be published.—*Guardian*.

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### THE MARONITES AND THE DRUSES.

In the seventh century a monk named John Maron, chief of a Convent among the native Christians of Syria, inhabiting the Lebanon Mountains propagated among them the doctrine of but one will guiding and influencing the twofold nature of Christ. This doctrine, known in the Church history as the Monothelite heresy, had just been condemned by the Sixth General Council of Constantinople. John Maron preaching this doctrine among these mountaineers soon obtained numerous followers, and founded that body of Christians ever since called after him, Maronites, numbering before the present horrible war of extermination, about 220,000 souls, scattered over Palestine and Syria from Nazareth to Aleppo, but chiefly at home in the Lebanon Mountains, These Christians, like the most of the mountaineers, are hardy, bold, independent, and industrious. In the year 1108, they renounced the Monothelite heresy, and have ever since maintained a nominal allegiance to the Romish Church. They have their own independent Bishops, who elect the Patriarch or Head of their Church organization ; have a Liturgy in their own native Syriac, or rather the Syriac instead of the Latin is exclusively their language, and their candidates for the priesthood may marry before their ordination, if not already vowed to celibacy. The Patriarch, whose robe of office comes from Rome, resides in a Convent near the place usually visited by travellers in Syria, where the only few remaining, " Cedars of Lebanon " are left to remind one of the former glory of the time of Hiram and Solomon. The Maronites, though bold, independent, and industrious, and although more numerous than the Druzes, are neither so well organized as their enemies, nor are they so good warriors. Hence their present fearful defeat. They are, more—