

prayer in the language understood by the people; all going to prove the accuracy of the answer made by Queen Elizabeth to the Roman Catholic Princes, "that there was no new faith propagated in England, no religion set up but that which was commanded by our Saviour, practised by the Primitive Church, and unanimously approved by the Fathers of the best antiquity." From this grand basis of truth there is, thank God, no probability of our being removed, since the Lambeth Conference, consisting of 78 bishops of the Anglican Church, solemnly resolved and recorded their convictions that unity will be most effectually promoted by maintaining the Faith in its purity and integrity—as taught in the Holy Scriptures, held by the Primitive Church, summed up in the Creeds and affirmed by the undisputed General Councils.*

The Legislation of Parliament was based on similar principles. The Act of Uniformity (1552) which authorized the second Prayer Book of Ed. VI, declares of the first Book that it was a "Godly order," agreeable to the Word of God and the Primitive Church, and the word *Primitive* is defined by an Act passed in the first year of Ed. VI, c. I, to mean "the space of 500 years and more after Christ's ascension." The Act touching Heresy in the reign of Elizabeth provides that "nothing shall be adjudged to be heresie but only such as have heretofore been determined ordered or adjudged to be heresie by the authority of the Canonical Scriptures, or by the *first four General Councils*, or any of them;" and the Act of Uniformity of Charles II, says of the order of Common Prayer in use in the reign of Elizabeth, that "It was agreeable to the Word of God and usage of the Primitive Church." The 4th Canon of Nicœa therefore challenges the respect of English Churchmen. That Canon is as follows, but I take the liberty of translating it somewhat differently from Mr. Dawson: "A Bishop ought indeed to be constituted by all the Bishops in the Province. But if this be difficult either by reason of urgent necessity, or the length of the way, when three by all means have met together, the absent also giving their suffrage and testifying their assent by letter, then let the election be made, but the ratification must be allowed to the Metropolitan in each Province." It serves no

* Extract from a Charge of the Bishop of Ontario, 1872.