

The Bishop's Address to Synod.

(Continued.)

II — CONFIRMATIONS, THE CLERGY, LAY HELPERS, CONSECRATIONS, DEDICATIONS.

First of all, then, with regard to Confirmations, I find, according to my Register, that, while the Lord Bishop of Ottawa has held for me one Confirmation, I have held one hundred and twenty-eight.

At these Confirmations, I have confirmed 1,073 Candidates, i.e., 519 males and 554 females, and of this whole number 228 were upwards of twenty-one years of age. The numbers confirmed each year from Easter to Easter during the last five years were respectively 524, 679, 396, 605 and 448. I reckon that, with our population of English Church members, and with our very large staff of Clergy to shepherd all our people, the annual average should be about 666, if all are some time or other to be confirmed, as they ought to be. Our average at present is 530—very good, no doubt, compared with the numbers in almost all other dioceses, and yet not entirely satisfactory. There ought certainly in some of our Parishes to be more Candidates, and yet I dare not press the matter, lest any of our Clergy should be led to seek merely for numbers, in order to meet my desires. But I earnestly trust that our faithful laity will assist the Clergy in this matter, by bringing all, who are within their influence, to be instructed, and also by watching over those who are confirmed, and by inviting them to join with themselves in the Holy Communion; thus helping them on in the higher life, till the habit of coming to be spiritually partakers of the Body and Blood of Christ is fully formed, so that, wherever their lot may be cast, they will be sure to continue in the right way, even to the very end of their lives. It is, in fact, ordered by our Prayer Book that every one shall have a God-father or God-mother as a witness of his or her Confirmation, and this Rubric does not in the least suggest that one of the Baptismal Sponsors shall be present, but rather that

some Godly Person shall be chosen by the Clergyman or by the Candidate to be present at the Confirmation, and assist just in the way that I am now advising. And in order that our people, when they leave us, may be placed definitely under some one's care, I would particularly ask the Clergy always to give to those who are leaving their Parishes letters of commendation to the Clergyman of the district or place to which they are going, or to write direct to the Clergyman about them, so that they may not, as strangers coming to a new Parish, be lost, as so many are, I fear, to their true spiritual Mother, the Church. The other day I saw a letter from a Clergyman, in which he said, that, although new people were constantly coming to his Parish, he had, in the course of a good many years, only received one letter of commendation, and that came from the Rev. Professor Wilkinson, of Bishop's University, Lennoxville. Such a declaration shews clearly, does it not, how much this duty is being neglected.

Since our last session of the Synod I have ordained four Deacons and eight Priests.

During the same period I have received four Clergy from other Dioceses, eight Clergy have left the Diocese, one has been pensioned and two have died.

Last year, as some amongst you are aware, we made an attempt to extend the territory of the Missionary of S. Ursule, by ordering him to reside at Three Rivers, and give half of his time to the English-speaking people living in the Valley of the River S. Maurice; but the plan did not prove successful. We have, therefore, brought the Rev. J. B. Gauthier, a former Missionary, back from the Diocese of Fond du Lac, to work entirely at S. Ursule, while we have appointed the Rev. W. Barton to take charge of the River S. Maurice Mission, which, including, as it does, Radnor Forges, Shawenag Falls, Grand Mere, Grandes Piles and other places, with their extending industries, will more than keep the Missionary fully employed. We have also appointed the Rev. J. Amond to be travelling Missionary, visiting Lake S. John, Lake Edward, Nicolet, Forstdale and other places every month. These changes cause an addition of