

ADDRESS OF THE BISHOP

DELIVERED AT THE MEETING OF THE SYNOD, HELD AT VICTORIA,
JUNE 14 AND 15, 1892.

(*Concluded.*)

GROWTH OF THE CHURCH.

Not only have we our own internal statistics, showing a marked progress in the growth of the Church of England in the Province, but we learn important facts from the recently completed Dominion Census for 1891. From that census it appears that the Church of England has made greater progress in British Columbia than any other religious body, the progress being 31 per cent. of the whole increase of population during the decade.

No doubt this is mostly due to immigration, but also, we may hope to the blessings attending the increase of the Episcopate, treble number of Clergy, and efforts in opening and carrying on new missions in districts heretofore neglected.

Considering how peculiarly cosmopolitan, from special circumstances, the Pacific Province has always been, its population having been gathered from all points, rather than direct from the mother country, this result is an encouragement to both Clergy and Laity of the Church of England. It is indeed a call for increased zeal on the part of all. While we must not expect to be successful in our mission without the active co-operation and support of our brethren of the Laity, the call for increased exertion is specially to the Clergy. We are continually finding cases of families, which belonged originally to the Church of England, having been drawn away into other communions, because overlooked, perhaps of necessity, by our own Clergy and Laity, yet kindly visited and ministered to by those of other beliefs. This points out how important is sympathy, kindly attention and diligent visiting, not only towards our own people, but also towards all others when opportunity offers, of being useful to them. For surely we should have such confidence in what we have to offer, church privileges and Catholic Faith of our Apostolic Church, as to feel special interest in winning others.