

Our own synod at its last session did not ignore the change or shun its responsibility, but claimed and exercised the right to frame rules and regulations for the government of the Church in Nova Scotia. Now that a synod is about to be established in New Brunswick, it is to be hoped that a combination of the maritime dioceses under a metropolitan elected by themselves will ensure unity of action.

The proposed bill was withdrawn toward the close of the last session of Parliament, but will no doubt be brought in again at an early date. The present Colonial Secretary is decidedly in favor of such a bill. He says: "For myself, I can certainly say that I should be most anxious to accede to the measure."

"On taking a general view of colonial society you will see from year to year an increase of civil action, and it has been the policy of this country to give almost absolute freedom in many of the colonies which possess representative institutions, and they have deliberately reduced the Church in many instances to the level of the other religious bodies. Therefore it seems to me that, such being the case, it would amount to a revolution if we were to attempt to deprive them of that liberty of action in ecclesiastical matters."

"For my own part, I do not feel that there is any risk of the spiritual ties being severed by this procedure. On the contrary, during recent years there has been a tendency to increase them. It has been clearly demonstrated that as you give civil liberty to those colonies their loyalty to the Crown increases; and so I believe that if you deal generously with the colonies in ecclesiastical matters you will find that their allegiance to the Church of England will increase in proportion to the liberty you bestow upon them."

With a Colonial Secretary holding these sentiments, we may justly hope that the Bill will receive the prompt and favourable attention of Her Majesty's Government.

COLONIAL BISHOPS' BILL.

Clause, 1.—Merely relates to the "acts repealed."

2.—"Validity given to Appointments and Ministerial Acts, in case of Ordination by Bishops not having jurisdiction in the place of their residence."

This we suppose is mostly retrospective and refers only to those who, through mistake or misunderstanding, may not have been ordained in strict accordance with the letter of the law. It renders their appointments and acts valid as tho' there had been no irregularity.

3.—"Persons ordained by Foreign or Colonial Bishops not to hold Preferment in England or Ireland, without consent of Diocesan."

The effect of this would not be to place our clergy in any worse position than before, while the former act bearing upon this subject would be repealed, "except so far as related to Bishops and Clergy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States."

4.—"Nor to officiate without notice to Diocesan, or contrary to his injunction."

This clause provides that no clergyman unless holding a licence from an English or Irish Bishop, shall "officiate on more than one day within three months, in any church or chapel in any (one?) diocese in England or Ireland," without permission from the Diocesan, under penalty of Ten pounds to the Governor of Queen Anne's County. Similar restrictions we believe have heretofore existed.

5.—"Exception of persons ordained under commission from English or Irish Diocesan."