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25-Feb-1874

DIOCESAN SYNOD.

To the Clergy and Laity of the Church of England in British Columbia.

DEAR REV. BRETHREN AND BRETHREN OF THE LAITY :—

A general desire for a Diocesan Synod having been expressed, and some matters seriously needing that organization, I invite your co-operation in the election of Lay Representatives in the second week after Easter, with a view to the assembling of a Convention of Bishop, Clergy, and Laity, early in July.

The office of the Convention will be to consider and agree to a declaration of principles and fundamental provisions as the basis upon which the Synod will be formed.

The first assembly will not therefore be the Synod, but a body authorized by the Parishes to agree upon a Constitution, and then, if there be such agreement, to resolve itself into the Synod.

In framing Laws and Regulations respecting Bishop, Clergy and Laity, property, finance, discipline, spread of the Gospel, and in adopting measures proved successful in other branches of our Communion, it must be our endeavour to adhere closely to the principles of the Church of England, of which we desire to remain an integral part. Though a voluntary body, so far as disconnection with the State is concerned, we claim no liberty to choose for ourselves any other system of ecclesiastical order than that of our Mother Church.

The deep importance of subjects to come under consideration presses upon all Electors the great desirability of choosing Representatives well known and trusted for intelligent attachment to the Church, and whose time and energies will be readily and heartily given.

I adopt and recommend to you the Resolutions passed at an influential meeting of Church Committees last month in Victoria, as the guide for our first proceedings and the understanding upon which we meet in Convention.

I append a copy of those Resolutions, and also some directions kindly drawn up from them by the Registrar of the Diocese. Requesting you to take the necessary steps, should you decide to join the Synod, and earnestly trusting that in this important undertaking we may all be guided with wisdom from above, so that our conclusions may be for the promotion of God's glory and the true edification of His Church.

I am,

Dear Rev. Brethren and Brethren of the Laity,
Your sincere friend and Pastor,

G. COLUMBIA.

BISHOP'S CLOSE, VICTORIA, February 25, 1874.