

40th Anniversary.

As this session marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Diocese, the Bishop and Standing Committee resolved to celebrate the auspicious event by means of a special service and celebration of the Holy Communion in the Cathedral Church, and by having read short papers giving a survey of the historical events connected with the history of the Church in the Diocese. The days chosen for this session of Synod are the actual anniversaries of the dates of the first Synod of the Diocese.

It is an appropriate time to measure growth in the body ecclesiastical and spiritual.

Not wishing in any way to forestall what shall be said this evening, I shall refrain from quoting statistics. I may observe, however, in passing, that whether we view the progress of the Church in this Diocese by the number of churches which have been erected, or by the increase in the number of Clergy; or whether we gauge our zeal and strength and advance as a church by the number and steady, increase in our communicants' list, or by our contributions to Missions and other Church objects, we shall find abundant evidence of healthy growth and advancement.

Turning from the outer to the inner growth and development of the Church, we observe progress everywhere. Music has spread far and wide and has given a brightness to worship of which our fathers knew but little. The highest act of devotion is not now the coldest and most lifeless. A new elasticity in the use of the Prayer Book has helped to make the services of the Church more attractive. There are fuller Churches, a larger attendance at the Holy Communion, and more frequent and reverent Confirmations and Services. There is in consequence a stronger grasp of Church principles and a more earnest desire to realize the presence of the Holy Spirit. The services of Christian women have been used and made to tell in the Church's dealings, with people once neglected, and in the care and comfort of the afflicted. Laymen are being utilized in the carrying on of