

devote themselves most heartily to the work of the Church in the United States feel most keenly its defects,—its short comings, and its enormous responsibilities. With such men, who take the lead in all that work alluded to in these letters, there are more indications of depression than of undue elation. If, under these unfavourable circumstances, God has evidently done great things for his Church, His servants “rejoice with trembling.” It cannot do any harm to let our brethren know that we, not sharing individually in their labours and their cares, entertain for them and for their work’s sake, warm feelings of sympathy and regard.

In the Dominion of Canada a prospect opens up for the Church, full of hope, by the united action of all the dioceses of British America under a Provincial Synod, which will correspond to the General Convention of the Church in the United States. The Bishops in British America are surely not too many nor the Clergy and Laity too numerous to form one General Council representing the whole body. This is a matter of vast importance at the present time and for all future generations. Ought not temporary hindrances to be got over, and all feelings and prejudice to be laid aside? Is it unbecoming to learn from the experience of the past, or, from what is presented by a state of things now existing? If the statements in the following pages can be relied on, it has pleased God to bless the work of the Church in the United States under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, and to place her, at this day, in a position well fitted for the extension of His Kingdom on the earth. All this has unquestionably, in a great degree, been brought about under the principle of centralization,—by the united action of the Church, through the Bishops and representatives of the Clergy and Laity in their General Conventions.

From time to time there have been temptations to disruption. Against this, those most eminent for learning and piety have striven and prayed. The evil has, under the most trying circumstances, been averted. In the Church of the United States, there was no separate Provinces, North or South, East or West. Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Maine and Minnesota unite on equal terms with New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Deputies from the smaller and more distant dioceses influence the proceedings of the assembled body. The Church in the United States will not give up her triennial Conventions. They will be retained, not so much