

DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

HAMILTON.—*St. John the Evangelist*.—The plans and specifications of the new church for this parish (lately set apart by the Bishop) are now ready; but though anxious to begin building at once the parishioners are only able to offer but a very feeble assistance, and have to look to friends throughout the Canadian Church for sympathetic co-operation. To build seems to be absolutely necessary. The present Mission room is much too small for the requirements of the present, and is quite unfit for the worship of Almighty God and to do effective work under existing circumstances is almost impossible. It is necessary to raise \$1 500 before satisfactory arrangements can be made to begin to build, and strong effort is being made to secure this sum. All who desire to aid in this good work may forward their subscriptions to F. L. Whalley, Esq., Sec.-Treasurer, Hamilton; and the same will be 'humbly presented' upon God's altar.

DIOCESE OF HURON.

BIDDULPH.—*St. Patrick's*.—On Thursday, July 17th, the Bishop of Huron held a Confirmation Service in this Church, when ten candidates were presented by Rev. H. D. Steele, the Incumbent. This is one of the three churches of the Kirkton Mission—but being near to Exeter the Bishop took this opportunity of visiting the parish in his confirmation tour through Huron County. Rev. Mr. Shore, of Ailea Craig, and Rev. Mr. Bridgman, of Hensall, were present and took part in the services. All the candidates were young, ranging from 13 to 20 years of age. The Bishop's address was pointed and felicitous, showing the duties and qualifications of those who took upon them their baptismal obligations. His Lordship, Bishop Baldwin, afterwards addressed the congregation generally, dwelling upon the typical ceremonies of the ancient Jewish Church, as all preaching Christ the great propitiatory sacrifice. The Incumbent of this parish is to be congratulated on the marked improvement in the attendance on church ordinances. *Laud Deo!*

KIRKTON.—*St. Paul's*.—A Ladies' Aid has been lately organized in this parish with a view to church work. The following office-bearers were elected, viz: Mrs. H. D. Steele, President; Mrs. Bryan, Vice-President; Miss Mary Burns, Secretary; Mrs. Robert H. Robinson, Treasurer. The ladies of the congregation entertain occasional entertainments, and a fancy sale of useful articles, to pay for necessary improvements on their church edifice. On the Sunday preceding Dominion Day, a union church service was held between the two congregations of Trinity Church, Prospect Hill and St. Pauls Church, Kirkton, when a large gathering assembled in a grove, the service being conducted by Rev. S. F. Robinson of Exeter. On Dominion Day a union picnic was held on the same ground, and very interesting addresses were then given by the Rev. Mr. English of Ladies' College, London, and Rev. G. B. Sage of London West, as well as by the Incumbent.

DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE.

The Bishop gave the following table of Statistics to the Synod on the progress of the Church in the Diocese during the last four years:

	For the Year ending Easter			
	1887	1888	1889	1890
Baptisms.....	162	109	222	225
Confirmed.....	60	55	43	160
Communicants....	585	651	837	1051
Children in S. S.	203	271	338	410

DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

THE SYNOD.—The following items were omitted in Synod report:

A hearty tribute of esteem and a "God speed" were accorded to the Rev. C. Croucher on his departure from the Diocese. The Bishop spoke in the highest terms of the assistance Mr. Croucher had been both to himself and to the Diocese at large.

The Synod was attended by 19 Laymen, 1 Deacon, 14 Priests (including the Archdeacon) and two Bishops. The Rector of St. James', Sister Frances, and other friends hospitably entertained the members of the Synod. The Clerical Synod, held on the previous day, was chiefly occupied in the revision of the office for the Consecration of Churches.

ST. LEONARD'S HALL.—This handsome building has been completed and opened for use since last month. As a matter of course it is built of wood, but the simple style adopted by the architect, Mr. Sharp, is just that to which wood best lends itself. The main building consists of one large hall capable of seating comfortably three hundred, besides a spacious platform on which another hundred might find room to sit. The hall is lofty, well lighted and ventilated. The basement contains rooms and offices which are now occupied by the Trinity Church Club. On one side of the main hall rooms are arranged and fitted up as kitchen, supper room, and cloak rooms.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The name of Correspondent must in all cases be enclosed with letter, but will not be published unless desired. The Editor will not hold himself responsible, however, for any opinions expressed by Correspondents].

CONSOLIDATION OF THE CHURCH IN B. N. A.

To the Editor of the Church Guardian:

SIR,—My attention has been called to the interesting criticisms of the Bishop of Qu'Appelle and the Dean of Montreal upon the proposed basis for the consolidation of the church in British North America, which has been adopted by the Diocesan Synod of Toronto and was referred by the Provincial Synod at its last Session to the careful consideration of its Committee appointed on the subject. As the great conference of Diocesan representatives from all parts of the Dominion is summoned to meet at Winnipeg early in August and the thoughts and prayers of many devout people will naturally centre upon this important matter, I would ask your permission to make a few observations thereon.

With regard to the Bishop of Qu'Appelle, there seems little essential difference between the carefully drawn scheme which bears his signature and the less elaborate recommendations of the Toronto Synod. The Toronto plan distinctly recognizes the fact that owing to the small number of dioceses existing in certain Civil provinces in the Dominion, some of the proposed Ecclesiastical Provinces must comprise two or more Civil Divisions. This is exactly what the Bishop of Qu'Appelle has so forcibly brought out. The views of the Dean of Montreal, however, conflict with the Toronto recommendations on an important matter of principle.

The Montreal Synod appears to be in favor of the abolition of the present Provincial system. The Toronto Synod advocates its retention and in certain cases would make it more efficient than at present by grouping in the various Ecclesiastical Province those dioceses only which from their position and circumstances have, speaking generally, common interests and common difficulties. Everyone who has attended the Sessions of our present Pro-

vincial Synod must have been struck with the fact that it was practically impossible to obtain adequate hearing for any subject which was not equally familiar and important to the eastern and western diocese alike. At the same time it would be easy to make a list of many important matters in which the differing circumstances of the Church in Ontario and in the more eastern Provinces necessitate treatment from somewhat varied points of view. The division of the present Ecclesiastical Province of Canada into at least two Provinces would undoubtedly strengthen Provincial action both in Eastern and Western Canada, whilst, to sweep away the Provincial system altogether and leave these various local matters to be dealt with by the National Synod would be to greatly aggravate all the evils which at present exist. I doubt if there is any case in the whole compass of Church history of an Ecclesiastical Province extending over three thousand miles in length. The instance of the Church in the United States is hardly to the point, as the very difficulties I have mentioned are already making themselves strongly felt and have resulted in the demand for the erection of provinces and Provincial Synods, subordinate to the General Convention. At the present time, two such Provinces are in actual existence, viz: those of New York and Illinois. It may be noted that these American Provinces are co-terminous with the corresponding States and the jurisdiction of the State Legislatures.

Another practical reason, of vital importance, in favor of the retention of the provincial system, with such modifications as may be necessary to increase its efficiency, arises from the fact that the Bishops of the North West have again and again expressed their resolve to maintain unimpaired in any system of consolidation their own Provincial organization. A plan which runs counter to this unmistakable current of opinion in the North West diocese seems, practically, out of court.

With regard to the various titles of Primate and Archbishop which were recommended by the Toronto Synod the matter is clearly one not appertaining to the essence of the scheme but to be dealt with according to the general consensus of opinion in the Church. In order to assist in forming such consensus I would briefly say that an objection to the importation of titles appears to me to be well founded only when we have to deal with titles which represent nothing, but that the same objection can hardly lie against distinguishing those who are intrusted with duties of special importance, by suitable titles of honour. The Metropolitans of several Provinces will clearly have their defined powers and duties, such as to preside in the Provincial Synods; to be generally responsible for the promulgation of provincial Canons and for the due administration, during the interval between one Provincial Synod and another, of all matters appertaining to the common acts of the Provincial Synod, in addition to whatever duties may be imposed upon the Metropolitan by Synodical legislation. So important an officer must surely bear a distinguishing title. The only point which can be debated is whether he should be styled simply Metropolitan, a title which is perhaps very intelligible to a considerable number of Church people, or should bear the more easily understood and familiar designation of Archbishop. Similar reasoning applies to the case of the President of the Dominion Synod. The appellation of Primate appeared a suitable one for the Metropolitan, who by election takes precedence amongst his brethren of the same order.

These are, however, matters comparatively indifferent. The retention of a Provincial system, appears to me absolutely essential to the efficient development of the Church in the several portions of our vast Dominion.

Yours, etc.,
C. W. E. BODY,
July 15th, 1890.