

The meeting, a successful one in all respects, was closed by the Bishop who acknowledged gracefully the presence of the children of the Band of Hope, and pointed to them as specimens—thanking them for their attendance.

SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL

The business meeting of the Synod opened at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the Lord Bishop presiding. After the routine proceedings, and the appointment of the Standing officers, all of whom were reappointed, save the Treasurer, Mr. Charles Garth being named in place of James Hutton, Esq., deceased; after the appointment of Standing Committees the Bishop delivered his annual address, in which, after dealing with the local affairs of his diocese referring to his Episcopal acts, and noting that quiet but decided progress was being made, as evidenced by the number of persons confirmed during the year; his Lordship at considerable length referred to the movement for the consolidation of the Church in B.N.A. reading the circular which has been issued upon the subject by the special committee appointed at the last Provincial Synod and calling for a conference of the delegates from each Diocese to be held in the City of Winnipeg, on the 15th August next. His Lordship also referred at considerable length to the position of the Church Home in the city of Montreal, and which he characterizes as Diocesan, and which now is chiefly intended for the benefit of Church gentlewomen in reduced circumstances, new premises having been purchased upon Guy street, and he recommended the work to the attention of Church people in the diocese. He also referred to the *Montreal Theological College*, expressing satisfaction that the difficulty in regard to degrees had been satisfactorily settled through the action of the Provincial Synod, and stating that the College was in a prosperous condition and was regarded by him as of the utmost importance in maintaining the supply of Clergy for the Diocese. Reference was also made to the *Dunham Ladies' College*, which he warmly recommended to the sympathy of the Diocese. His Lordship concluded a lengthy and interesting address with a touching reference to the late Rev. John Allen, Chaplain of the Penitentiary at St. Vincent de Paul, one of the oldest of the clergy, and to the late James Hutton, Esq., who for fifty years or thereabouts had been connected with the Church work in the Diocese, had been a member of the Synod from its formation, had acted for many years as its Treasurer, and from whom he and the clergy at large had received, on multitudinous occasions, warm counsel, advice and assistance.

The Rev. Canon Ingram, of the Diocese of Leicester, Eng., was then introduced and accorded a seat upon the floor of the House on the motion of the Dean, seconded by Dr. Davidson.

The first matter of business which engaged the attention of the Synod was a resolution, moved by the Dean of Montreal, seconded by Dr. Davidson, that the Synod should appoint delegates to attend Conference to be held at Winnipeg on the 15th August next, in reference to the consolidation of the Church in British North America. The Dean spoke ably and at length in support of his motion, and was followed by the seconder, and after short addresses by the Rev. G. O. Troop, John Crawford, Esq., and others, and the opinion of the Synod evidently being in favor of but one Ecclesiastical Province throughout British North America, and the resolution having been enlarged to meet this view it was adopted unanimously, and on motion of Venerable Archdeacon Lindsay, the Very Rev. the Dean of Montreal, and Dr. Davidson, Q.C., were appointed delegates to attend such Conference. Both parties expressed doubt as to their ability to leave the city at that time, and the final appointment

was at their suggestion held over to the second day of Synod, when this appointment was made with Ven. Archdeacon Lindsay and Dr. Butler as their substitutes.

The morning of the Second day was occupied chiefly with the consideration of the Report of the Committee on securing better attendance at the Synod until its close. Experience had shown that after the election of the Executive Committee, and the delegates to Provincial Synod had taken place, which usually is fixed for the second day, the number of lay delegates became 'beautifully' less, and the committee after pointing out the injustice done to the parishes and missions represented by these delegates, and urging the conscientious performance of the duty, suggested that these elections should take place on the last day of Synod. All sorts of excuses and objections were made, all lending force or reality to the suggestions; but after long discussion the suggestions were not adopted, but the report was referred back to the committee for consideration of certain further suggestions as to the manner and time of taking the ballots.

The first business at the afternoon session was the consideration of the draft address to the Bishop of the Diocese on this the 50th year of his ordination. The Dean being in the chair (the Bishop being absent) the committee reported the address which was adopted, and a special committee having been named, consisting of Ven. Archdeacon Lindsay, Canon Anderson and Charles Garth, Esq., to go for and escort the Bishop to the House, his Lordship was found, and having been escorted to the platform, the Dean, in the name of the Synod, read the following address:

To the Right Rev. William Bennet Bond, M. A., LL.D., Lord Bishop of Montreal:

We, the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Montreal in Synod assembled, approach your Lordship with warm congratulations on this the fiftieth year of your Christian ministry, assuring you of our sincere esteem, regard and affection and of our united good wishes for your Lordship's happiness, both now and onward in your Episcopal career.

In your Lordship we recognize, not only one who has been called by the voice of the Diocese to the highest Apostolic office within the Church, but one who step by step has passed through the varied honorable positions to which a clergyman of the Church of England may attain. As a faithful missionary in a widespread field of country work, as a pre-eminently successful rector of a large city parish, as one who attained every dignity connected with the diocesan life your Lordship has made in each office the record of 'a workman that needeth not to be ashamed' faithful, devoted and untiring. Few lives have been favored with such widespread opportunities and few under God have been more blest in the holier ministrations of the sacred calling. In the long past of devoted parish work your voice has whispered the message of God's ambassador in silent rooms where to speak ought else would be sacrilege, has poured it forth in all its depth and beauty where hearts have been dried and withered by the woes and sorrows of life, has told it as a child to children, has driven it home with the energy of youth into the hearts of youthful men; and has spoken it with the dignity of age in the stricken presence of the mature and chastened. But there has been more than a voice sounding through your lips for half a century of varied work. If honest practice of honest preaching, if a spirit of disinterestedness, and freedom from self seeking, if a helping hand held out to other men, if kindness to the lowly, gentleness to the afflicted and boldness for the truth, if one or all of those are aspects of the higher life, that higher life has lived out its years in your person in the presence of the fathers and children of the Church for half a century.

As Bishop of the Diocese your Lordship has

proved yourself not only a missionary bishop, unsparring of self and devoted in labors, but you have been ever willing to lead the Church in large centres of life, unto those good works which naturally spring into existence within a city such as ours.

To clergy and laity in country, and to clergy and laity in city, you have proved yourself a real leader of men, and that with a spirit of father-like gentleness which, whilst winning for you the affection of many, has lost you the esteem and respect of none; none the less a Bishop for being a friend.

We ask your Lordship, therefore, to accept through these weak words the sincere congratulations of the Church throughout the Diocese, now in Synod assembled, as in some faint measure a 'harvest home' of the good seed sown by you through the long years of your faithful and devoted labors.

Words can but faintly express our appreciation of your work and the sincerity of our desire that God may long spare you to guide and develop the work of the Church within this diocese.

In reply, His Lordship said:—My dear Friends and Brethren of the Clergy and Laity: 'No one could receive unmoved such an address as you have just presented to me. But I find it almost impossible to make a fitting reply. That my fellowmen amongst whom my life has been spent should review my poor work so favorably, makes me inexpressibly happy, for I believe that your hearts suggested the words. But I dare not ask myself how far I deserve all that you have said. Half a century is a long time, and an old man, especially an old clergyman, if he have any power of self analysis cannot flatter himself at the close of such a period of active duty that he has reached his own ideal. Yet I may honestly allow that I have always desired to succeed in all my work in the Church, for the love I bear to the Great Head of the Church, and so far as I have known and understood I have tried to forget myself in my duty to God. If by the grace of God my life has not been a failure, I am not unmindful also, that much of my success is due to the good people, clerical and lay, with whom my lot in life has been cast. I could not find words to express the love that abides in my heart for the Church and people of Montreal. If, like the aged Patriarch, I have a weakness for one above the rest of my spiritual children; if the love of St. George's Church makes itself apparent, even in the midst of my effort, to be as a chief pastor should be, impartial in affection, I know you will forgive that weakness and set it to the account of natural human infirmity. At no period of my ministry have I been far removed from the city of Montreal. I was one of the band of men to whom was given the building up of the Church in this Province and Diocese, and I see now with mental vision that army of good men struggling through good report and evil report, through fever and poverty, through heat by summer and frost by winter, to plant the banner of the cross on all the heights of ignorance and sin from Labrador to Red River. It is no small honor to have belonged to such a goodly company. It is no small honor to have served under Bishop Mountain and Bishop Fulford and Bishop Oxenden, though my place may not have been in the forefront of the battle. Forgive the brief retrospect. Any word of praise to me, in circumstances like the present, must necessarily recall the dead to life, and awaken recollections in which the names of dear and brave companions in arms, fallen many of them on the field, crowd the memory, and make it treachery to withhold mention of their deeds. This generation has seen few of the dread scenes which were part of our early experience—ship fever, cholera, fires, famines, long journeys by water, and still longer and harder journeys by land. These seem to be past and