

THREE O'CLOCK P. M.

The Synod re-assembled. The Bishop in the chair.

ADDRESS.

The Bishop delivered his inaugural Address.

*My Reverend Brethren, and Brethren of the Laity :*

My first words to you must be to express my most sincere thanks for the way in which I have been received in this Diocese. The act of thanksgiving and prayer in the Cathedral upon the evening of my arrival in Victoria, was a fitting prelude to the hearty welcome which I have experienced on all sides during the past month. In addition to the official reception in the Odd Fellows' Hall, I have had the advantage of being personally introduced to a large proportion of the members of the Church at receptions, which have been arranged in the several parishes. This has been a decided help to me in the difficult position in which I find myself called to follow one who was so true a friend to you all, as my revered predecessor.

It would be impertinent of me, comparatively a stranger, to attempt any analysis of the work and character of Bishop Hills, but I cannot refrain from saying, that to my mind, he was an ideal pioneer Bishop. It is impossible to exaggerate the advantage which this Diocese has had in the guidance of his firm hand during the past 33 years. He has indeed borne the burden and heat of the day, and cleared the way for his successor. "He soweth and another reapeth." May he be spared to see here on earth the development and growth of all that was so dear to his heart in this Diocese, in which his name will never be forgotten.

During the interregnum of six months you know better than I can tell you the admirable way in which the Venerable Archdeacon Scriven has administered the affairs of the Diocese, and I shall leave it to one of you to propose that a recognition of his services shall be enrolled upon the minutes of the Synod. I shall never forget the great personal kindness which he has already shown to me, and I am profoundly thankful to have such a fellow-worker in the ministry.

May I also add a single word of my appreciation of the able and careful way in which the Lay Secretary, Mr. Baynes Reed, has put me in possession of the details of the work of the Diocese.