

Events":—"One of the minor excitements of last week was the Conference of 'Protestant Churchmen' held during two days in Exeter Hall. The proceedings were not open to the public, but rumours reached the public of what went on—and they were rumours that within that secret conclave all was not peace. The Church Association has no doubt grown to be greatly discredited in the eyes of many people, and the Evangelicals have for some time past felt that they must establish another society to take its place and to rally the scattered forces of Protestantism as it is within the English Church. Hence, as the outcome of last week's Exeter Hall Conference there has been formed the 'Protestant Churchman's Alliance,' whose aim indeed is to be much that of our old friend, the Church Association, but which is to differ from this distinguished body by not devoting itself to prosecutions. We are glad of that for its own sake. Religious prosecutions are bad things—for the prosecutors. It is further to be noticed that those who met last week to set going this new body were not entirely agreed as to the desirability of using the word 'Protestant' in connexion with it. Finally, indeed, it was determined that the word should occur in the title, but it was not without some vigorous opposition. A new phase surely has come over Evangelicalism when any Evangelical hesitates for a moment as to whether or not he shall use the word 'Protestant' on any possible occasion."

THE JESUITS' ESTATES ACT.

When Canada was won from the French in 1759 the British Government treated the land generally very leniently, and although the Society of Jesuits—an institution whose practices were most abhorrent to the English people—was proclaimed and its possessions theoretically confiscated to the Crown, so great was the consideration actually shown to the body that it was allowed to die out, and it was only at the beginning of the present century, on the death of the last member, that its lands reverted to King George III. In the interval Pope Clement XIV. had abolished the Order as being dangerous to Church and State, so that even from a Roman point of view its existence was terminated. In 1832 the property which had till then remained in the hands of the British Government was appropriated for educational purposes in the province of Quebec, being, it is stated, fairly apportioned for this object among the different denominations. We believe we are right in adding that the French Government, before the conquest of Canada by the British, had refused to admit that the Jesuits had a valid title to the property.

Notwithstanding all this, now after more than one hundred years the toleration and moderation of the British have permitted the Romish element to acquire a preponderating power in the Quebec Legislature. Their use of this influence is instructive. It has been to force an Act through the Legislature, known as the 'Jesuits' Estates Act,' which gives back to the Jesuits the property that it is now alleged they were unjustly deprived of. It is impossible to describe the indignation which this Act has excited among the non-Romish element throughout the Dominion. Everywhere meetings are being held and protests formulated. Language of a very heated character which, although we deplore, we are bound to admit is largely justified by the circumstances of the case, has been used. It will be well if the passions so unhappily and unwisely roused content themselves with words. Mark the audacity of such a Bill. It is a direct insult to the Crown. It is an assertion that the British Government have given away what was not their own. Men such as those who have passed this Act would, had they the power in England, hand back to Rome

every foot of land, every brick and every stone which were taken out of her hands at the time of the Reformation. Fortunately we have good watch dogs, and the people generally are not likely to emulate the example of the sheep who accepted the advice of the wolves in Aesop's well-known fable.—*Church Bells.*

PROVINCIAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN CANADA.

The next meeting of the Provincial Synod for the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada will meet at the Synod Hall, in the city of Montreal, on the 11th day of September next. The Bishops, Clergy and Lay Delegates will walk in procession from the Synod Hall to the Cathedral, where service will be held, commencing at 10:30 a.m. The preacher (appointed by the Most Reverend the Metropolitan) will be the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia (Dr. Courtney). The business meetings will, it is understood, be held as heretofore in the St. George's School House, Stanley street. All *Notices of Motion* which any desire to have placed on the *Agenda* paper must be in the hands of the Hon. Lay Secretary (Dr. Davidson, Q.C., Montreal), on or before the 17th day of August next at latest, and proposed *Canons* before the 7th August. It is desirable that all such *Notices* and *Canons* should be sent in as soon as possible.

CANONS OF THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD.

Though these are binding upon the whole Church in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada they are not, we fear, known to many of our Laity, and, perhaps, not to all of the Clergy. They are only to be found in printed form in the Reports issued by the Provincial Synod; of which only a comparatively small number are issued. We have thought that it might, therefore, be of interest to many of our readers, to have the most important and most general in application of these Canons given in our columns. At the present time much greater use is being made of the laity in the services of the Church, and in this connection we give this week, two of the Provincial Canons:

CANON VI.

OF MINISTERING IN PARISHES.

1. No Clergyman shall absent himself from his charge, for more than four weeks at a time, without the written consent of the Bishop, or, in his absence, of his Commissary.

2. No person shall be permitted to celebrate Divine Service or perform any office of the Church, permanently or occasionally, except he shall have been Episcopally and Canonically ordained, and it shall be the duty of the Incumbent, or, in his absence, of the Church-wardens, to demand proof of such ordination and of the good standing of the Clergyman before permitting him to officiate.

No person shall perform the office of Lay Reader except he shall hold the Bishop's licence.

This Canon shall not apply to the students of any Theological College, so as to prevent them from reading the Lessons in the College Chapel, or to Laymen occasionally officiating when there is a necessity for it.

3. No Clergyman shall officiate in any Mission or Parish, either as a substitute for the Incumbent or his assistant, for more than one month, without the written Licence of the Bishop, and no person who has availed himself of this implied permission shall be allowed to officiate again in the same Mission or Parish within a period of three months, unless he

obtain the license of the Bishop or the Bishop's commissary.

4. No Bishop of one Diocese shall perform any Episcopal functions in another without the sanction of the Bishop thereof, save in the case provided for by the Canon relating to the powers of the Metropolitan, nor shall any Bishop perform any such functions in any vacant diocese except by instructions from the Metropolitan; or, in case of the voidance of his Diocese, from the Senior Bishop of the Province.

CANON XVII.

OF LAY READERS.

Lay readers may be employed in any parish or mission under the following conditions:—The lay reader shall be selected by the Rector or missionary in charge, and shall be recommended by him to the Bishop for his licence.

The Bishop, having satisfied himself that such person is fitted by reason of his religious character and his knowledge of the Bible and Prayer Book for the office, may licence him as lay reader in the form hereto subjoined, and shall, when practicable, admit him, in person or by deputy, to his office in the presence of the people among whom he is to serve.

We by Divine permission, Bishop of do by these presents grant unto you, our well beloved in Christ, in whose good morals and sound doctrine we do confide, our Licence and Authority to perform the duties of Lay Reader and Catechist, in the Parish or Mission of , under the guidance and direction of the Reverend , the Minister in charge. This Licence to continue during our pleasure, or until the said Reverend shall signify to us and to you in writing under his hand that he no longer desires to avail himself of your services, when it shall cease and determine. Given under our Hand and Seal, this day of in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty and in the year of our consecration.

DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

MOUNT FOREST.—The Rev. R. S. Radcliffe, Rector of East Saginaw, Mich., paid his old parish a visit, and the opportunity was taken advantage of to tender him receptions at different points in the parish, so that he might see all his old friends in the quickest and pleasantest way possible. Three garden parties were consequently got up, at Mr. Orr's pleasant residence in Mount Forest, one at Mr. H. Morrison's at Farwell, and one at the Tighe settlement, an entirely new station; all were a great success the gross receipts reaching the handsome sum of \$119. The Rev. gentleman is in the enjoyment of the best of health and spirits, and full of information and enthusiasm with regard to his work in the state of Michigan. He preached whilst in Mount Forest to overflowing congregations both in town and country.

WHAT can we conceive of that first Eden which we might not yet win back, if we chose? It was a place full of flowers, we say. Well; the flowers are always striving to grow wherever we suffer them; and the fairer the closer. There may indeed have been a fall of flowers, as a fall of man, but assuredly creatures such as we are can now fancy nothing lovelier than roses and lilies, which would grow for us side by side, leaf overlapping leaf, till the earth was white and red with them, if we cared to have it so.—*John Ruskin.*

Live as with God; and whatever be your calling, pray for the gift that will perfectly qualify you in it.—*Horace Bushnell.*