

## P R E F A C E.

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The Toronto Diocesan Conference of 1896 was held in the city of Toronto on September 23rd and 24th, preceded by Church Services at three selected centres on the evening of September 22nd, and by the celebration of the Holy Communion on the morning of September 23rd.

At the earnest request of a number of Churchmen, this digest of the papers read at the Conference has been prepared. Several of the shorter papers are given in their entirety; but in almost every instance considerations of space and cost rendered curtailment necessary. The curtailment has been made, not mechanically, but with judgment and freedom; hence to some papers more space has been allowed than would relatively belong to them, for the reason that to have abridged them in the same proportion as others would have tended to obscure their general purport. Omissions, wherever made, are indicated by the dotted line.

As this digest contains no report of the criticisms made by voluntary speakers, it may be well to remind the reader that the views advanced in the several papers are not binding upon anyone, being merely individual expressions of opinion. Some of the views advanced were animadverted upon by members of the Conference, while others were strongly endorsed. But it is not within the province of a Conference, which exists solely for the free interchange of opinion, to express itself corporately by any resolution touching the matters discussed.

The marked interest shown in the conference led many to express the hope that a similar gathering might be held in Toronto annually. Others are of the opinion that it would be better to enlarge the scope of such an undertaking from a Diocesan Conference to the more general Church Congress, meeting annually in different centres, but in Toronto not more frequently than triennially. We commend the matter to the attention of our several synods.