

THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD OF CANADA.

All American Churchmen will appreciate highly the courteous recognition embodied in the unanimous vote of an Address from the Synod to our General Convention, to be forwarded to it at its next Session. The General Convention will not fail to respond in a like spirit of affectionate confidence and fraternal unity. Such incidents are a cordial to the heart, even in the midst of wars and rumors of wars.—*The Church Journal*.

SOREL.

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Three years previously, in 1796, a singular case of mediæval superstition occurred, in the case of one of the church members at Sorel, and which as probably the only instance of its kind on record in Canada, is deserving of passing notice in these brief annals of the Church. A Protestant of foreign extraction, Jean Pailly, by name, was found, with his daughter, murdered in their dwelling. As might be expected, the deed of blood created intense excitement throughout the little community. Searching inquiry was instituted, but no clue was obtained to the guilty party. Resort was then had, by authority, to the *ordeal by touch*. The body of the murdered man, with head and breast uncovered, was publicly exposed in the market place, and proclamation made, that under penalty of imprisonment, all the males of the town above a certain age, should then and there be present. And at the same time, the whole of the military in garrison, by order of Captain Dickenson, R. A., the commandant, were similarly mustered, and then marched round the body, each man, in passing, being made to touch the murdered man, "but" records an eye witness, "there was no sign given by blood; this, however," he adds, "clears the town of the innocent blood shed in it."

During the incumbency of Mr. Doty, Sorel was honoured by visits from two members of the reigning family of Great Britain. The Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV, then serving in the royal navy, on his passage up the St. Lawrence, made a short stay at Sorel, and in reply to an address presented to him, was pleased to sanction the change of its name to his own, of William Henry. And subsequently, Sorel was also visited in passing, by Her Majesty's Father, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

Mr. Doty's missionary labours appear to have embraced a very wide extent of country, extending, as his parish register shews, to Terrebonne, Chambly, St. Johns, and even into the neighbouring States, as far south as Albany, and his old missionary station, Schenectady.

Mr. Doty vacated the rectory and retired from the ministry in October, 1802, dying at Three Rivers, not many years since, at an advanced age. Mr. Doty was a man of decided ability, but it is to be feared, that alike with pastor and people, in this early period of Church history in Canada, the retrospect is not satisfactory, and that too often they did that only which was right in their own eyes.