

terior to their brethren elsewhere; that we have laymen capable, and sound of judgment, as those of other dioceses; and an assurance given that we shall be no longer treated as children, or Indian wards.

But, if it be decreed that we clergy and laity of Algoma, are incapable of forming an intelligent opinion upon the needs of our diocese; or of giving an intelligible expression of our opinion when formed; and if, especially, our priests are to be stingingly reproached, humiliated, and branded with marks of immeasurable inferiority; then, these things cannot be too plainly stated, nor the facts too widely known; so that when our crushed and overwhelmed bishop is compelled to send in his threatened resignation, those of us who wish to preserve some lingering traces of self-respect may be prepared to follow his example.

C. J. MACHIN.

Gravonhurst, June 27th, 1894.

Diocese of Rupert's Land.

SYNOD MEETING.

The opening service of the Synod of the diocese of Rupert's Land was held in Holy Trinity Church at 10 a.m. on the 27th June, in the presence of a large congregation, composed of clerical and lay delegates and many church members. After the shortened Form of Prayer, the anthem, "How lovely are the Messengers," from Mendelssohn's St. Paul, was given, preceded by the recitation and duet, "Now are we Ambassador's for Christ." In place of the usual sermon His Grace the Archbishop delivered the following address, reviewing the present condition of the diocese and its work and progress since the last meeting of the Synod:

Reverend Brethren and Brethren of the Laity: In addressing you to day I feel that I must first of all congratulate you on the Consolidation of the Church in Canada. This is the consummation of many hopes and efforts, and we all trust that it will prove a great blessing to the Church. The constitution that has been adopted should be eminently satisfactory to our province. We owe our organization as a province, and the formation of our dioceses to the countenance and help of kind friends, especially of the Church Missionary Society of England, in the case of the four northern dioceses. It would have been very ungrateful on our part if we had accepted what might have shaken their confidence in the disposition of their funds or the liberty of their missionaries. It was, therefore, necessary that the arrangements for the appointment of our bishops should remain with the province, and that our province should be able to suspend the application to it of measures of the General Synod of a coercive character unacceptable to our people or friends. There was a risk of opposition to such concessions. There is an attractiveness in the simplicity of a single authority and a natural fear of weakness in allowing non-concurrence in its decisions. But better counsels prevailed. The draft of a constitution that was drawn up by a small committee at the Conference in Winnipeg was adopted almost without change, first by the Conference in Winnipeg and then by the General Synod in Toronto, after it had been very fully discussed in the various Diocesan Synods and in the Provincial Synod of the Province of Canada. My dear brother the Bishop of Caledonia has not yet seen his way to join us. I am sure if he could he would have a most hearty welcome. Already we have to deplore the loss of one, who took a very active part in the General Synod. The Bishop of New Westminster by his judgment and consideration very materially aided the work of Consolidation and was naturally chosen as the preacher at the great Thanksgiving service in St. James' Cathedral, Toronto. The diocese has lost its head at a very critical time, when it is crippled and prostrated by those dis-

astrous floods. It should have our sympathy and prayers. The basis of the constitution adopted by the General Synod cannot now be easily changed, as the same conservative conditions have been laid down in it as exist in our provincial constitution, but while we have reasons to feel satisfied at securing these provincial safeguards, it is not that we apprehend any necessity for their exercise or that we do not appreciate the desirability of conforming, if possible, to the decision of a majority. The Consolidation of the Church has been heartily welcomed throughout the Dominion and seems to have met with the cordial approval of the whole of the Church of England. The next General Synod meets in this city in Sept. 1896. I am sure our church people will give its members a most hearty welcome and show a generous hospitality. There cannot but be many immediate advantages in the Consolidation of the Church—a great increase of brotherly feeling and sympathy from closer relations, an assurance of united action throughout the Dominion in many ways as in the same services for special occasions—a fuller and more searching discussion of all questions before a final decision—a greater security for the maintenance of sound doctrine and discipline, more power and influence in dealing with the many social, educational and religious questions of the day.

Still there are other practical benefits, which we should seek from Consolidation. The life and progress of the Church must depend much on wise financial arrangements. When we observe the mission work of the Presbyterian and Methodist bodies in Canada, we cannot but be conscious of great weakness in our divided administration of funds. It seems to be impossible to have a proper enthusiasm in a Dominion mission effort when every diocese has its own. This limited and selfish degree of effort in crushing out generous and broad views of duty cannot but be hurtful to the diocesan mission effort as it is to the Dominion. It was often said that the reason the spontaneous interest and help of our fellow churchmen in Eastern Canada in work here compared poorly with those of other bodies, was that we were not in the same Church organization. I never regarded this as the true reason. It would have been strange if it had been, in view of the fact that the dioceses of Eastern Canada had for so many years been fostered by England though not in the same organization. The reason was the contracting effect resulting from each diocese having a separate organization for its own wants. We feel the need of a change. Our able and indefatigable secretary, who deserves our warmest thanks, meets with ever increasing difficulties in securing openings in the stronger parishes in the east for presenting our needs. It seems to be thought by many that the home work of the parish and diocese cannot withstand the withdrawal of donations to our work, and yet only four Canadian churchmen in the east gave to Mr. Rogers last year as much as \$50. The other Northwestern dioceses need a change. They have not the means that even we have of putting before the Church in the east their needs. The Diocese of Algoma needs a change. The devoted Bishop, who has for years spent himself for the diocese, when now in broken health intimating the probability of resignation, says: "The unsatisfactory financial position of my diocese and the constant strain of anxiety which it imposes, have contributed largely to the decision referred to."

But the dioceses of Eastern Canada, always excepting Quebec, no less need the change themselves. The deficiency in the Mission funds of the Dioceses of Montreal, Toronto and Huron exceeds \$30,000. The remedy for this grave position is not to contract the opportunity before the public of giving, but to increase their sense of duty and privilege, and arouse their interest. With a warm presentation of duty accompanying a clear and effective statement

of needs, there would be a more liberal response for home as well as for western claims. This would be most effectually done by an interchange of well-qualified speakers. Unquestionably there are great difficulties in the way of such a common mission fund. The Union of the Church was so long deferred—even in the Provinces of Canada—that independent dioceses sprang up. All financial matters such as mission funds, clergy, widow and orphan funds, and superannuation funds belong to the diocese. There are separate organizations in each diocese with varying regulations. How consolidation of these can be brought about with due regard to existing interests amid such complications is a difficult question, probably at first only tentatively and partially, but as things are the Church cannot have the growth and progress which we could wish and which it should have, and we cannot secure the full advantage of Consolidation. At the last Provincial Synod the revision of our constitution was completed. The arrangement for the election of the Bishop of the diocese, who should be the Metropolitan of the province, which was accepted by this Synod in October, 1890, has been finally adopted by the Provincial Synod and now forms part of the constitution of the Province. A canon, which has been approved by the Executive committee will be submitted to you for carrying out the part assigned to this diocese. And here, I may mention that the General Synod resolved that the Metropolitans of the Ecclesiastical provinces in the Church of England should receive the usual and ancient title of Metropolitans—namely, archbishop. I have accordingly for convenience obtained the passing of a bill by the legislature of this province changing the title of the sole corporation "Bishop of Rupert's Land." I have to express my satisfaction of the completeness of the statistical returns this year.

The Executive committee on the resignation of W. Brock, who so kindly acted as honorary treasurer, was induced largely by his advice and kind gift of \$100 to secure Synod rooms for the treasurer, and to have a paid accountant under the Dean, who kindly agreed to act as honorary treasurer. It was also found necessary to have an assistant secretary, owing to the frequent and prolonged absences of the secretary, which the interests of the diocese required. The increased expenditure, from these arrangements, has been abundantly justified by the conveniences to the diocese and the business shape into which everything is now brought. Since last Synod we have with the rest of the world passed through a period of depression, especially since the last harvest. In many cases, the crops were seriously injured by hot winds just as they were ripening, and the whole province suffered severely from the lowness of prices. The losses of the farmers are felt by all classes. The consequent depression has affected the Church. Many of our clergy have not received the full stipend from their people, and the grants from the Home Mission Fund have only been paid by drawing on capital funds. At the last Synod the treasurer reported that there was a noticeable decrease in the Home Mission Fund. The deficiency was \$3,291.64, but in spite of the deficiency we resolved to supply a clergyman wherever the people in a new district would properly meet a grant. The number of missions has been thus materially increased—not altogether by new missions—partly by re-occupying fields that for some cause had been for a time without a resident clergyman. Since last Synod, we have had to regret the loss of six or seven faithful laborers; but we have an increase of fifteen, while the missions of Oak Lake and Souris are still vacant, and we should be looking forward to new missions at Ninga, Belmont, Pipestone and perhaps the Brokenhead district of Springfield. This means a very large addition to our yearly expenditure. We thought it well to act with faith, that God would provide