

tution. Here, then, dear Brethren, is the practical difficulty which we, in common with the Church at large, are called to grapple with, and all the wisdom and discretion which we can command, in reliance upon the Divine Providence and assistance, are necessary to the rightful attainment of this aid.

As you are doubtless aware, our Brethren in the United States have already in former years, and under many and various forms, been obliged to confront this difficulty, and, at the present time, are actually not a little *disturbed* by questions involving, the freedom both moral and spiritual, as some conceive, of the Church as a religious body. These discussions relate more especially at this time, to matters of external order and forms of worship, and while, for the most part, not such as are of very essential or vital importance, are still perhaps, not without interest and profit to the Church at large. Among ourselves, at the present moment, the question, as you will learn from our Minutes, assumes the form of legislation upon the subject of the *Ministry*, and the formation of such laws and rules of order respecting the qualifications and functions of those who are admitted to the sacred office, as may best provide for the regulating and ordering of the Ministry in the circumstances and under the conditions of a new country like our own.

And here I am reminded that the circumstances and conditions of this Province have recently undergone very important changes, and such as must one day have a perceptible effect upon the interest of the New Church in this country. And we cannot but cherish the hope that under the New Dominion which has thus been formed out of the union of the different provinces of the British Empire in this part of the globe, the cause we have all so much at heart will make great and permanent progress; and the title "*The Association of the New Jerusalem Church in Canada*"—adopted previously to the time when this union was first contemplated,—prove a favorable omen of the *extension* of its limits and meaning, till it shall come to embrace within it every receiver of the Heavenly Doctrines throughout the entire "*Dominion of Canada*" no less than those residing within the former *Province* of that name.—At least, it seems not too much to presume that our brethren in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia,—for we know that there are a few in those parts—should it ever be thought expedient to make the proposition to them, would not be likely to object to uniting with us in the great uses which it is the aim of our Association to carry out.