

PROVINCIAL SYNOD MONTREAL.

(Continued from the Montreal Gazette.)

THIRD DAY.

The lower house of Synod met at ten o'clock yesterday morning in the Synod room, having attended prayers at 9 o'clock in the Cathedral. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Prolocutor, after which the clerical secretary read the minutes of the preceding day's Synod, which, after being corrected in a few slight particulars, were approved.

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.

The Prolocutor read a letter from the Lord Bishop of Ontario to the secretary of the Provincial Synod informing him that he had nominated, according to a resolution of His Lordship's Synod, Jas. A. Henderson to the seat in the Provincial Synod, vacant by the non-election of Hon. John Hamilton to a seat in the Synod, for the Diocese of Ontario.

A discussion arose on the question of accepting the above nomination, several members holding that it was not in accordance with the constitution, while others maintained that the Bishop of Ontario not being in the province till within a short period, he had not time to give previous notice, and that there was no valid objection to the acceptance of the nomination.

Rev. Mr. HOLLAND moved, seconded by Dr. BOVELL:

That the first clause of Article 28 of the constitution be suspended, in order that His Lordship the Bishop of Ontario may have an opportunity of giving an amended list of the delegates in his diocese certified under his hand and seal accordingly.

After some members had spoken,

Sheriff Corbett moved that the letter from the Bishop be accepted and placed on the minutes, and that Mr. Henderson be permitted to take his seat.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON thought that the minutes of the above diocese ought to be produced to shew that the proceeding was regular, and afterwards the by-law authorizing such action in the assembly of the Synod of Ontario should be produced. There should be no irregularity whatever in affairs of this nature.

Mr. HUNTINGTON, M.P.P., moved in amendment, seconded by the Rev. Mr. SLACK—

That the letter and certificate of His Lordship the Bishop of Ontario, just read from the chair, be accepted, and that Mr. Henderson be at once admitted to a seat in this House.

The mover thought that any opposite action would only be a splitting of straws, for if the certificate of the Bishop respecting the election of the whole of the delegates from the Synod were accepted without hesitation, there could be no reason in refusing that certificate when it only related to the election of one delegate to fill up a vacancy.

Mr. E. CARTER did not think the refusal to accept the nomination at this stage was a splitting of straws at all. They should not do any thing that looked like sanctioning an irregular or illegal proceeding. The nomination should be duly certified under the Bishop's seal, and the nomination announced with all that necessary form and ceremony prescribed by the constitution.

The document sent by the Bishop was a letter simply, without any seal certifying a nomination by him, whereas the constitution required a certificate of an election by the diocese.

After some further discussion,

Mr. HARMAN entered the house, bearing a certificate, duly signed and just obtained from the

Bishop of Ontario to the effect that James A. Henderson had been nominated by him to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Hamilton, and that the resolution annexed was that under which the appointment had been made.

The resolution of the Synod of the Diocese of Ontario, giving the authority above referred to, namely to fill up any vacancies that might occur, was now read.

The Prolocutor now said the production of those papers altered the whole case. The question was now, whether the house would receive those documents at this stage of the proceedings, instead of the letter which came from his Lordship, and had been read first? He (the Prolocutor) would think it desirable for the house to receive the documents just handed in, in substitution of the letter previously submitted.

Rev. Mr. Holland now withdrew his motion, and Sheriff Corbett withdrew his amendment, Mr. Huntington also withdrawing his amendment to the latter.

Mr. HARMAN moved, seconded by the Rev. Mr. ARMSTRONG, "That the certificate furnished by His Lordship the Bishop of Ontario be received, and that Mr. Henderson be permitted to take his seat thereunder.

After a few remarks from some other delegates, the motion was carried on a division.

Rev. Mr. BOND suggested that the names be recorded, as he thought there was a violation of the constitution.

The names of the delegates were then called by orders, with the following result: ayes 60; nays 30. Clerical vote—ayes 35; nays 17; lay vote—ayes 25; nays 18.

MESSAGE FROM THE UPPER HOUSE.

The Rev. PROLOCUTOR then read the following message sent down from the House of Bishops:—

"UPPER HOUSE, Sept. 11, 1862.

"The Upper House readily agree to the appointment of a joint committee, to revise the prayers at present in use for the Governor General and Provincial Legislature; and will be prepared to receive the members of the Lower House when notified of their appointment.

(Signed,) "F. MONTREAL."

The PROLOCUTOR of Trinity College, Toronto, moved, seconded by Dr. BOVELL:

That the committee consist of the following Delegates:—The Dean of Montreal, the Archdeacon of Toronto, Archdeacon of London and Dr. Nicolls.

The Rev. PROLOCUTOR notified the Upper House of the appointment of this committee.

COMMITTEE ON CANONS.

Hon J. H. CAMERON moved, seconded by Mr. SIMPSON:

That the Committee on Canons do consist of the Rev. Dr. Beaven, Mr. Harman, Rev. Mr. Muloch, Mr. Steele, Rev. Cannon Bancroft, Mr. E. Carter, Rev. Mr. Roe, Mr. Irvine, Rev. Dr. Boomer, and Mr. Lawrason.

The motion was carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notices of motion were given: Rev. Mr. BLEASDELL gave notice that he would move, seconded by the Rev. Dr. ROOME,

That this Provincial Synod taking into consideration the position which the United Church of England and Ireland maintains in reference to the aggressions of the Church of Rome within the British Nation, whether in public matters or in private life, feel bound to confess their entire approbation of the firm and consistent course adopted by a member of this Synod, the Rev. J. Geddes, when in the exercise of his duty on a recent occasion he presented so firm

and uncompromising a front to the aggressions of the emissaries of Papal Rome."

From Rev. H. HOLLAND—"That in order to bring the 28th act of the constitution into agreement with the Synod act, it be amended with the introduction of the words—or appointment—after the word election, at the beginning of the said article.

Also from Rev. H. HOLLAND—That a committee of five, one from each Diocese, be appointed to revise the minutes, with a view to decide what portion of them it may be necessary to include with the printed report.

It being one o'clock the House rose.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

THE DIACONATE.

The committee on the subject reported in favour of the establishment of a diaconate as a permanent order in the church, instead of a mere stepping stone to the ministry, and in order to carry out the recommendation subjoined to their report the following draft of projected canon.

1. Candidates for the office of deacon shall undergo such examination as may satisfy the bishop of the diocese that they are well versed in the Holy Scriptures, in the vulgar tongue, the liturgy, offices, and articles of the church, and an outline of church history, regard being had especially to the period of reformation, and the history of the Church of England.

2. No deacon shall be admitted to the priesthood until he shall have served as deacon at least three years, and have passed a satisfactory examination in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and have further complied with such conditions as the bishop of each diocese may require. Nevertheless a bishop may, if he think fit, advance a deacon to the priesthood after twenty years' service in the diaconate, without such additional qualifications.

3. No deacon shall have any independent spiritual charge, and no deacon shall officiate in any parish or congregation without the express consent of the incumbent; nor, in any case, without the assent of the bishop, and when so officiating he shall be entirely subject to the direction of the incumbent in all his ministrations.

Rev. Mr. DEWAN moved the adoption of the report of committee on the diaconate. This was a motion for which a few years ago it would have been difficult to find a mover and seconder, but which would nevertheless ultimately prevail, because it was founded in truth and wisdom.—The report was founded on two facts. 1st. That the deacon's order is part of that religious system which the great head of the church had instituted, but which now did not exist within the bosom of the church. 2nd. That there are members of the church who are without the ministrations of the gospel, but are hungering and thirsting for them, to whom at present those ministrations could not be supplied. In order that the cause of the church should triumph it was necessary to adopt some means of filling this void; and he asked whether it was possible to adopt any method better than that devised by the great head of the church himself. In an address of the Methodist body lately presented to the Governor General, it was stated that there were in Canada 500 Ministers and 2000 churches of that body. Why had the Church of England not as many? Why did the Church of England make, during the last year, according to the census, less progress than the Methodist Church? He thought it was because in some shape the Methodists had an effective diaconate in the shape of local preachers, which was wanting to the Church of England. The motion was seconded by Mr. H. TAYLOR.