

The decision arrived at upon this subject at the last meeting of our Synod was submitted, as the law of the Church of this ecclesiastical Province demands, to the House of Bishops, at the late meeting of the Provincial Synod. The House of Bishops gave their due consideration to the proposal embraced in the memorial which was presented to them; and, without a dissentient voice, concurred in the Judgment which was in due course transmitted to the Executive Committee of this Diocese. As probably but few members of the Synod have had the opportunity of examining this document, I feel that it is due to you, as well as to the Right Reverend body from which it has emanated, to place it before you on the present occasion.

"The House of Bishops, after giving their best consideration to the Memorial from the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, in reference to the formation of a new Diocese within its limits, are constrained to express their objection to the area and extent of the said proposed Diocese as compared with that of the entire Diocese of Toronto.

"If the division proposed in the Memorial were carried out, the area of the Diocese of Toronto—as obtained from the census of 1871—would contain 6,790,533 acres; while the area of the proposed new Diocese would contain only 1,292,415 acres.

"The whole Church of England population of the Diocese of Toronto would, in such case, be 107,375; while the proposed new diocese would contain only 34,258.

"The whole number of the clergy would in that event, be 120; while the number in the new Diocese would be only 45.

"When Dioceses are divided, it is reasonable to expect that the division should be so arranged as to appropriate to each section as nearly as possible an equality of area to be traversed, and of Episcopal work to be performed. In the scheme proposed there is, in all respects, a glaring inequality.

"The House of Bishops are further to consider the influence of the proposed division upon the financial condition of the Diocese of Toronto. Were the intended arrangement to be carried out, a very small extent of what may strictly be termed Missionary territory would be comprehended in the new Diocese, and a disproportionately large one in the Diocese of Toronto. On the latter would be laid the burden of supplying a vast missionary field, with the subtraction of a very considerable annual sum by the Diocese proposed to be set off; in which annual sum are to be included large special donations, which, on carrying out the proposed division, would be lost to the Diocese of Toronto.

"The House of Bishops also feel themselves obliged, in assenting to any division of Dioceses, to keep in view the further subdivisions which, in process of time, would be called for. A Diocese of fair extent on the western side of the present Diocese of Toronto, would allow of the annexation of a considerable portion to a Diocese that might be formed at the eastern extremities of the Diocese of Huron; and by fairly reducing the present limits of the Diocese of Toronto, there would be the means of annexing at its eastern extremities such counties from the Diocese of Ontario as would form, in that direction, a Diocese of satisfactory extent. This would not be so practicable if, by adhering to the limits of the proposed western Diocese, the Diocese of Toronto should be left so large that no division on the east could be effected which would relieve the Diocese of Ontario.

"Nor can the House of Bishops allow themselves to overlook the fact that, by the terms proposed in the Memorial, a Diocese of very small extent would be permitted to send to the Provincial Synod as many delegates, both clerical and lay, as are supplied by other Dioceses of more than double the area, and more than double in Church population and the number of clergy. This strikes them as a disparity unjust in itself, and to which wide-spread objection would be made.

"The House of Bishops, gravely impressed by these considerations, would propose as an equitable arrangement the addition to the counties named in the Memorial they have received, the following, namely, the counties of Wellington, Peel, and Cardwell, with such townships in the county of Simcoe as would be comprehended within a line proceeding as directly north as possible from the eastern extremities of Peel and Cardwell, namely, the townships of Mulmur, Tossoronto, Nottawasaga, and Sunnidale. These additions would enlarge the area of the proposed Diocese to