

But I must once more express my earnest hope, that, on this solemn occasion, I may have the great advantage of your personal presence.

And now, I commend this proposed meeting to your fervent prayers; and, humbly beseeching the blessing of Almighty God on yourself and your Diocese, I subscribe myself, your faithful brother in the Lord,

C. T. CANTUAR.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Convocation of Canterbury met at Westminster, on the 12th February. Eleven of the Bishops, besides the Archbishop, were present in the Upper House.

The Bishop of Oxford presented a petition, signed by a number of clergy, and others, praying for a General Synod of all Churches in Communion with the Church of England. All they ask for, was, merely a brotherly conference.

The Archbishop said, that—the request being of that character, and no idea being entertained of calling a Synod, in order to make canons for the guidance of the Church, which would be in direct opposition to the authority of the Crown—“*he would hardly feel justified in refusing a request that seemed so natural.*”

The petition was ordered to lie on the table. So there is good hope, that the “Pan-Anglican Council,” as the proposed Synod has been happily termed, may really take place.

A debate took place upon a petition presented by the Bishop of Lichfield, from the clergy of his diocese praying for some relief from using the Burial Service, in all cases; but, as far as our information goes, without any definite result at the time. The Burial Service of the Church of England, as many of readers, doubtless know, contains phrases, which—strictly applicable to those only who have, in the *very highest* sense, died in the Faith of Christ—can hardly be used promiscuously, without an appearance of great inconsistency.

It was these passages—which were eliminated or altered, when the Services were revised for the use of the American Church—to which the petition alluded.

The Bishop of Llandaff remarked, in the course of the discussion, that “he should be very unwilling to see the Burial Service altered; but he should be very glad to see something done for the relief of the clergy.”

The Subject of Diocesan Synods also came up; being introduced by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. The matter was very favourably entertained. There can be little doubt, that if this ancient Diocesan Body be revived, the *laity* will be represented. Upon this occasion, the Bishop of Lichfield expressly remarked, that, “if these Synods were to be of any advantage, *the lay element must be introduced.*”

The Archbishop of Canterbury “thought the idea of these Diocesan meetings, was a very beautiful one; but he saw that that the revival of them was full of difficulties. Those difficulties showed the great importance of a subdivision of the present dioceses—a matter on which he had been in communication with the Earl of Derby, and on which he should accompany a deputation to him during the next fortnight.”

In the Lower House the Venerable Archdeacon Bickersteth presided, as Prolocutor. Archdeacon Allen drew attention to the fact, that several of the Colonial Bishops were in England; and referred especially, to the Bishop of Barbadoes, who had been absent from his See, for nearly three years. He asked, whether, in case of the Bishop's restoration to health, he should not resign his office. The speaker referred, also, to the Bishop of Exeter, reported to be blind, and now over ninety years of age, and who yet retains the nominal spiritual oversight of the whole of Devonshire and Cornwall.

The *gravamen* was—by resolution—referred to the Committee on *gravamina*.—*American Churchman.*