

## Synod Reform.

SIR.—The full and most interesting account of the first day's proceedings of the General Synod appears only in the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN of the 17th Sept., and it proves conclusively the necessity there is for a radical Synod reform, not only in the Synod of Toronto, but in all other Synods which have adopted its organization. Well might the Archbishop remark, "I cannot say that I feel at all satisfied with the condition of the business for this General Synod. There has not been much preparation." It is clear the committees have not done their duty. They should have made reports to the Primate of the present condition as to organization of each Synod, and on any important question. His Grace should also know the clear opinion of the clergy and the clear opinion of the laity upon it, so that he, with the advice of his Council, may give a just judgment. The Synods of the future will not be mere financial counting houses, but they will also be an index of opinion for the guidance to some extent of the General Synod. At the time of the first General Synod it was thought unfortunate that the Primate was to reside so far away from the seat of Government. On almost every important question he requires the best legal advice. In Ottawa it would have been conveniently available, and he would not have had to complain, in his admirable charge, that he had not been able to do anything but by correspondence. Let us hope that before long he may be spared such inconvenience and labour by his residence in Ottawa.

J. SYMONS.

## Inter-Diocesan Sunday-School Committee.

SIR.—In the midst of the Synods, Conferences, Conventions, and meetings of boards and committees being, or about to be held, is the meeting of the Inter-Diocesan Sunday School committee which will take place next month at Montreal. One is tempted to ask what is the work of this committee, and what does it cost to accomplish it. The committee was appointed some years ago for the purpose of arranging a uniform scheme of lessons for the Sunday-schools of the Province. This work was accomplished, so far as it could be, and we have now a scheme of lessons, which is in reality those prepared by the Church of England Sunday-School Institute in England, and which provides a course for five years. The committee, therefore, has nothing to do in this matter but adapt the scheme to our Church, which a small sub-committee of two or three can do better than a large committee can. But the committee still exists, and must justify its existence, and so it has undertaken the work of preparing a Sunday school liturgy with hopes that it may be adopted by the Sunday-schools of the Province. It has been at this work for some time now, and has made, it is understood, but little progress. And when the liturgy is completed, what then? Some time ago a very good service was prepared by the Sunday-school committee of the Diocese of Toronto. Yet even in that diocese it did not supersede other simpler forms which were already in use. Is the liturgy of the Inter-Diocesan Sunday-school committee likely to meet with more general acceptance? Besides, the matter has now been taken up by the General Synod, and if the meagre reports which have as yet reached us are to be relied upon, is being dealt with by it. The Inter-Diocesan Sunday-school committee then exists for no practical purpose. Look now at the expense its meetings involve. The committee consists of four delegates from each of the nine dioceses of the province—more than the same dioceses send to the General Synod in addition to all the bishops. This makes a committee of no less than forty-five members—a little Synod in itself. The meetings of this enormous committee are held semi-annually; there being thus six meetings between each meeting of the Provincial Synod. As the delegates are summoned to them from points as far distant from one another as Halifax and London, perhaps the average distance to be travelled by each member is that from Toronto to Montreal. The cost of this—in mere travelling expenses—is, say, twenty dollars. Thus, omitting the bishops, who at the same time attend the meetings of the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions, and the members in the diocese in which the meeting is held, there remain thirty-two members of the committee who pay each twenty dollars for his journey. That is, each meeting costs, in travelling expenses alone, \$640, one year's meeting \$1,280, and the three years' meetings \$3,840. It is true some of these delegates pay their own expenses in attending these meetings, but others do not. For instance, in the Diocese of Toronto, they were paid for some years out of the General Purpose Fund of the diocese, while last year they were taken out of the profits of one of the Sunday-school committee's publications, which, if it were not for this useless expense, might be offered to the Sunday-schools at a cheaper rate than at present. But however paid the cost is the same. In these hard times, then, when it is so difficult to

obtain money for the Church's necessary work, and when there is so much real work requiring to be done in the Church, does it not seem folly to waste money, time and energy on the meetings of so large and useless a committee? TAU.

## British and Foreign.

The Bishop of Western Equatorial Africa, Dr. Tugwell, and his newly-married wife, arrived at Liverpool recently.

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. Bradley Abbott, vicar of Christ Church, Clapham, for thirty years, and one of the best known of the South London clergy.

In Ireland, harvest thanksgiving services are taking place much earlier than usual this year owing to the early harvest; some of the services were held a week ago.

Those who recollect the recent reference to Lundy Island will be interested to learn that the pretty new church is fast approaching completion. It was intended to consecrate it on Sept. 15th, but it seems that this was impossible.

Dean Farrar, who has been staying at Newguay since he left Canterbury, preached the sermon on Sunday, 20th ult., in Liverpool Cathedral. There was a special service in connection with the meeting of the British Association.

The Rock says, "We are glad to learn that the Canadian Episcopal Synod has re-adopted the resolution passed in 1893 in favour of the re-union of all Christian bodies in Canada upon the basis of the articles of the Lambeth Conference."

In connection with the annual Conference of the Trades Union Congress, which commenced in the Music Hall, Edinburgh, on Monday week, special sermons were preached in a number of Scotch episcopal churches on the previous day.

Recently the Bishop of St. Asaph dedicated a new pulpit at Rhosesmor Church, near Holywell. The pulpit, which is a very handsome one, has been presented by Mrs. Scott Bankes, of Soughton Hall, in memory of her late husband, Mr. J. Scott Bankes.

The Archbishop of Dublin has issued invitations to a garden party at his country seat, Old Connaught, Bray, at which the guests will meet the English Primate, who will be entertained by the Archbishop of Dublin during his month's stay in Ireland.

Last Sunday week in St. John's Church, Alloa, the Bishop of Winchester (who is the guest of Lord and Lady Balfour) assisted the incumbent, the Rev. A. W. Cornelius Hollen, in the morning service, and was celebrant at the Holy Communion. The church was crowded.

The monument to the late Archdeacon Denison, which has now been placed above the grave in East Brent churchyard, is a massive structure of grey Dartmoor granite, weighing two and a half tons. The simple inscription ends with the words: "My trust is in the tender mercy of God for ever and ever."

At Green's Norton Parish Church, Northamptonshire, a coloured window, the gift of Miss Catherine Mary Pinckard, a native of the village, has just been unveiled as a memorial of her 100th birthday. Miss Pinckard, who was born on April 20th, 1796, and is still hale and hearty, attended the dedication service.

The Duchy of Lancaster living of Long Bennington, Lincolnshire, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. Michael Mills, who was for many years Government chaplain in India, and who, since he came into the parish in 1888, has been a most energetic and popular incumbent. The living is worth about £250 a year with residence.

The Archbishop of York is making a special appeal to the laity of the diocese on behalf of the Poor Benefices Fund, with a view to increasing the income of the ill-endowed clergy. Among the contributions already promised are: Colonel Gascoigne, £500; Mr. Warton, £100; Lord Zetland, £25, and many others £20 each.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have issued a circular calling attention to the fact that "no incumbent (except in a few most unusual cases) has the right to lease or work mines or minerals (including surface minerals, such as stone, chalk, clay, gravel, sand, &c.) in glebe lands, without the consent of the patrons and of the Commissioners."

The meeting of the Ardagh Diocesan Synod took place recently under the presidency of the bishop, who congratulated the members on the work which had been done in the diocese during the past year. He alluded in touching words to the death of the late Primate, and also one of their own immediate supporters, the late Earl of Kingston.

A "parochial exhibition" was held recently at Athloy, county of Meath, when no fewer than 125 prizes were awarded to competitors. Athloy is almost unknown, but it is one of the neatest little towns in Ireland. The church, which is an old one, is kept in excellent repair by the worthy rector, the Rev. A. T. Harvey, who is a musician of no little skill.

Australia can point to some long-lived Deans—Dean Macartney, of Melbourne, was considerably over 90 when he died, and now we have Dean Cowper, of Sydney, celebrating his 86th birthday, and taking part in the services of his cathedral. The Deans of Melbourne and Adelaide are septuagenarians, the Dean of Newcastle being high upon being so.

Brisbane's bishop may at any time be made a Metropolitan, with the title of Archbishop, but the episcopal endowment of the Bishop of Brisbane for all that amounts to only £450 per annum; and Bishop Webber was told he would receive £1,200. No wonder he regards the question of episcopal income as the gravest one for the diocese to consider!

A movement is on foot to improve and restore the old cathedral church of Clonfert. According to the plans of the architect the sum of £1,500 will be needed. This is a small sum when compared with that spent on the restoration of other cathedrals such as Kildare, to be opened this month by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

## BRIEF MENTION.

An average of 26,000 letters are posted without addresses in England every year.

Li-Hung-Chang began life in poverty, and is now worth over \$50,000,000.

The late Samuel Poor, of St. Thomas, gave \$10,000 to the Protestant churches of that place.

Earl Li can never expect to redeem the ancient Orient. He announces that he is opposed to bicycle riding.

Dr. Conan Doyle first began to write to get a little money to pay some bills.

The first royal statue raised in London was one of Charles I., which still stands in Whitehall.

Only two per cent. of the Siberian runaways escape with their lives.

Of the natives in India about 2,000,000 can now read English.

The Rev. A. Robins, the chaplain-in-ordinary to the Queen, has just preached his five-thousandth sermon.

When the Trans-Siberian railway is completed in 1900, it will be possible to encircle the globe in thirty days.

The school for the blind in Liverpool, with the adjunct of the church for the blind, has received an anonymous gift of \$50,000 for a new school for the younger blind pupils.