

The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Lord Bishop.

The clerical Secretary then called over the Roll of Clergy, and then of Lay Delegates, in the order of their parishes, 50 of the former and 72 of the latter answered to their names. Only five of the clergy being absent, and only one Parish entirely unrepresented.

The Bishop of Montreal then addressed the Synod as follows :—

*My Rev. Brethren and Brethren of the Laity*,—I feel grateful to Almighty God for permitting me once more to meet you all at this annual gathering of the Synod of this diocese; and I trust that, while we may look back upon the past year with some confidence that our work has not been allowed altogether to stand still, we shall be enabled, by the united action of our clergy and laity, now assembled, to take such counsel, and devise such wise and practical measures, as shall impart increased energy and efficiency to our labours in every part of the diocese. Our meeting on this occasion occurs in the midst of the bustle of a general election in the province, and at a time of considerable political excitement. I fear we may, in consequence, lose the assistance of more than one valued member amongst our Lay delegates. But it is a great satisfaction to reflect whatever may be the heat or opposition engendered by such causes elsewhere, here we need anticipate no such disturbing agitation; and let us hope that the providence of God will so direct the course of this world, that all may be godly and quietly governed by those who shall be placed in authority over us. But while offering our unfeigned thanks for that interval of peace, which we have been, and I trust shall long be permitted to enjoy, we must all feel most deeply on account of those severe trials through which our brethren in the United States are now called to suffer. May Almighty God grant them a safe deliverance out of them all, and may the Church of Christ in that land be made a blessed instrument for promoting peace and good will, and for the setting forth of God's glory and setting forward the salvation of man. Witnessing however as we do the troubles of others, the hindrances thereby to good works and missionary enterprises, the disturbances of that country which has given such strength and beauty to the church's action, let us with renewed zeal and earnestness use the opportunities we are allowed to enjoy for the furtherance of the gospel and spreading abroad the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

In referring to matters within the diocese, I may mention that there are now 55 ordained clergymen and eight lay readers and catechists. Three deacons will be ordained by me at the next ordination. But we may truly say when we look at the extent of ground over which they have to work that the laborers are but few. I have many applications made to me for an increase of those laborers, for filling up the vacant places; and I have had it suggested to me by one who is himself a zealous laborer in that field, that we ought to have at least twenty more labouring for this diocese. Looking at the immense extent over which it extends it is no more than an adequate number, though at first sight it may appear large. Let us look at the work before us, and then we