

the Revs. S. S. Wood, J. H. Nicolls, D. D., G. V. Housman, and A. W. Mountain, distributed the elements.

At one o'clock the members of the Synod, the Bishop, Clergy, and Lay Delegates, met in the Lecturo Hall, Ann Street.

Present.—The Lord Bishop of Quebec in the Chair.

CLERGY PRESENT.—Allen, Balfour, Burrage, Chapman, Fothergill, Falloun, Gay, Holmuth, Hamilton, Housman, Jenkins, Jones, Kemp, King, Mountain, Nicolls, Petry, Pices, Pearce, Parkin, W. Richmond, J. P. Richmond, Roe, Reid, Robertson, Scarth, Short, Sewell, Smith, Vial, Ward, Wood; Woolryche. Total, 33.

Revs. Ross, Milne, Lyster, Ker, Dalziel, and Burgess, sent apologies for their non attendance.

LAY DELEGATES PRESENT.—Armstrong, J. D., Aylmer, Rt. Hon. Lord, Allen, Chapman, Doak, Dunscomb, Duncan, Davidson, Forsyth, Jas. Bell, Forsyth, Jos. B., Giles, Hanning, Irvine, Jones, H. N., Ker, Lyster, Lawler, Macmanus, Morris, Montzambert, Petry, Pratten, Rockingham; Rhodes; Stuart, Geo. O., Scott, W. C., Sheppard, Hon. W., Sheppard, Maxfield, Smith, R. H.; Smith Geo., Scott, H. S.; Thompson, Workman; Wood, Thos., Wurtele, W. G.; Wurtele, C. Wright, Wood, G. A. Total, 38.

Messrs. Yibert, Armstrong, and Dr. Gilbert, sent apologies for their non-attendance.

The Lord Bishop opened the Synod with prayer. His Lordship called upon the Clergy to elect a Secretary, when the Rev. E. C. Parkin was proposed, with the Rev. C. Hamilton to act as Assistant Secretary. The Rev. E. C. Parkin, having declined, the Rev. C. Hamilton was elected Secretary.

His Lordship called upon the Lay Delegates to elect a Secretary, when Mr. James Bell Forsyth, was chosen.

The Clerical Secretary proceeded under the direction of the Lord Bishop, to call over the names of the Clergy.

Thirty-three answered to their names.

The Lay Secretary called over the names of the Lay Delegates.

Thirty-eight answered.

The Synod then adjourned till 3 P. M., in order to enable the Secretaries to examine the certificates of the Lay Delegates.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Synod reassembled at 3 P. M.

The Secretaries reported the certificates of the Lay Delegates to be correct.

The minutes of the last Session were confirmed, without being read, having been printed for the information of the Synod.

The Lord Bishop then read his address.

ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF SYNOD, 5TH JUNE, 1861.

We are permitted to enter this day, upon the business of our third Synodical Session in this Diocese. If our proceedings have not yet produced any very marked effects, we must not suffer ourselves, on that account, to be discouraged. It must be the history, I apprehend, of Synodical action, to work itself first, step by step, into a manageable shape, capacity for practical benefit, and it is then that the engine is set freely in motion and so plays as to effect the purposes for which it is constructed. A great and important addition to the machinery by which these operations are to be conducted, has been made, since we last met, by the appointment of a Metropolitan of the Church of England in Canada, binding together the several Dioceses in order to their joint action in matters ecclesiastical, and at the same time leaving each Diocese free to provide separately for its own local interests, and to regulate its own immediate affairs. I trust that we shall

be blessed in all this. I trust that we shall always approach and carry through our task in a spirit of devout humility, and with firm faith in the promises of grace and guidance made to us in Christ. I trust that a religious, a Christian character, a character different from that of mere political organizations, will always be impressed upon our proceedings; and that none of us will inensibly be drawn into a habit of immersion, with whatever aptitude for the purpose we may happen to be gifted, in the forms and details of business, to the prejudice either of that spiritual frame of mind, or of that devotedness to pastoral labour, that close assiduity of attention to the flock, which ought, and with heightened effect in a Missionary Diocese like our own, to characterize the Ministers of the Gospel.

We have full reason, I think, to be satisfied with the location of the Metropolitan See at Montreal. The situation of that city is central, its wealth and its population greatly surpass those of any other city in British North America, and it is more marked than any other by a general spirit of progress and improvement. Nor is it a circumstance to be counted absolutely for nothing, that it has now a really creditable Cathedral Church, correct in design and beautiful in effect. As far as the person holding the office is concerned, all parties must be thoroughly satisfied, but, in point of fact, it is the place and not the person nor any personal considerations of whatever kind, which ought to determine the choice of the Metropolitan See.

As matters actually stand, the establishment of this chief See at Montreal, would involve an arrangement of which the prospect has given rise to some jealousy, seeming not wholly unreasonable;—for the Diocese of Montreal alone, having the election of its own Bishop, would thus chose the man who is to have ecclesiastical authority over the whole Province. A movement, however, has been made to provide against objections conceived to attach to this feature of the arrangement, without disturbing the arrangement itself. Against any such remedial contrivances, however, as would invest the Metropolitan See with an ambulatory character, making it shift about, upon the occurrence of vacancies, from Diocese to Diocese, I should most energetically and solemnly protest.

We now expect very soon to have a fifth Bishopric established in Canada. In our episcopal communion, the multiplication of Bishoprics is the extension of the Church and of her service in the cause of the Gospel—a very natural and obvious consequence, and one which has been remarkably exemplified in our own day. We are rather backward, I think, here as regards the interest which we take in the operations of the Church at a distance, and the new task in which the Church of England has been permitted to engage in providing a local Episcopate for the superintendance of Missions among the Heathen beyond the limits of the British dominions, is an auspicious omen of great things to be achieved by her towards the gathering in of the Gentiles, which ought to stir within us more thankful emotion, more lively sympathy, more happy anticipation than is, I fear, to be actually witnessed. That hearty engagement in the affairs of our Church upon the spot, which is necessary to the effective character of Synodical action, will never have life among us, unless we catch a glow of feeling reflected from abroad, and contract an animated sense of common interest in the advance of the cause of Christ over the world at large.

In our own particular case in this Province, the principle of elective Bishops has been introduced. Not that it has been made compulsory, we are left free to choose our own method, in each Diocese, of providing for the occupation of the Episcopate, and might leave the nomination, if

we saw good, in the hands of the Sovereign. But we may consider it, in a manner, as a settled point, that all the Bishoprics will be elective; and the day cannot be very remote when occasion will be given to put this principle in exercise within the Diocese of Quebec. I hope the Clergy and Laity will be prepared, when that day shall come, to act with a single eye to the glory of God, to the salvation of souls, and to the progress and consolidation of the Church,—with an inviolate spirit of charity and forbearance; with an utter repudiation of all worldly intrigue and partizanship, all recourse to the arts of canvassing and caballing,—every thing, in short, which is described by the word *electioneering* in the transactions of popular government in the world. Without staying to examine the question respecting the preponderance of advantages in the system of election on the one side, or nomination by authority on the other, it must be admitted that there are evils and dangers *incident*, generally, (for these remarks are not prompted by any suspicion of our particular local tendencies and dispositions,)—incident, generally to the elective principle.—evils and dangers against which it may be for the wisdom of our Synods to provide some adequate guard. The sentiment of Dr. Johnson, with reference to a question similar in its nature, within another Communion established in one portion of the British Isles,—without being adduced as condemnatory of the principal of election here in our view, may serve to indicate some of those *incidental* consequences, the prevention of which must, on all hands, be desired.

Having had described to him, two parties, “those for supporting the rights of patrons independent of the people, and those against it,” “It should be settled,” he said, “one way or the other.” “I cannot wish well,” he continues, “to a popular election of the Clergy when I consider that it occasions such animosities, such unworthy courting of the people, such slanders between the contending parties, and other disadvantages. It is enough” he concludes “to allow the people to remonstrate against the nomination of a Minister, for solid reasons.”*

It is, in my apprehension, very important in young institutions, like that in which we are here engaged, to avoid the vice of continually accumulating legislation. It can scarcely be necessary for me to disclaim either any desire to put a bar in the way of manifest improvements, or any disposition to deny that it must be left to the actual working of our experiment to suggest the expediency of some corrections here and there to be made. But if we meddle with our constitution, it ought to be with a wary and cautious hand. It is better to bear some slight inconveniences and to forego some slight advantages, both which may, after all, be imaginary, than to open the way to a sort of habitual agitation, a periodical fever of change, which would place us upon an unquiet and fluctuating basis, where we should feel nothing to be certain, nothing to be stable and solid, and which would also involve the serious evil of engrossing a large portion of that scanty time, which, under the peculiar circumstances of this Diocese, is all which is open to the disposal of business by the Synod. Nothing can more embarrass and obstruct our proceedings than such a tendency as this. Our constitution was long under deliberation and was brought, at last, into its present shape by the combined and patient labour of many able hands. It received the sanction of a vast majority in our Synod; and it promises, as it now stands, at least in all its main characteristics, to answer the objects for which our powers and privileges in this behalf have been procured.

To be Continued.