

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, NOV. 19, 1853.

TORONTO.

The first Synod of the Colonial Church has met and separated, and as far as we can gather from the published accounts of its proceedings, no mischief has followed, but rather presentification and the promise of much prospective advantage—so much indeed, that we are disposed to envy our Canadian Brethren the privilege they have enjoyed, and no doubt will now continue to enjoy, in such gatherings of the whole body of their Church, in one regularly organized and deliberative assembly. We trust, however, the day is not far distant in which we shall be able to record a similar meeting of the Diocese of Nova Scotia, which each revolving year renders more imperatively necessary, if it is desired to impart any vitality, energy or unity to our Church.

The proceedings of the Toronto Synod appear to have been extremely interesting, and to have been conducted with the greatest propriety and decorum. On this point, perhaps the testimony of the secular press will be regarded as even more satisfactory than the opinion of a Church paper. The *United Empire*, a large and influential journal, thus speaks:—

"We cannot take leave of this important meeting without expressing our high opinion of its great respectability and intelligence. We could not look over the large assemblage of Clergymen there—upwards of 140—many of them men of family: some of them representatives of the first educational institutions in the world, and all of them men of high attainments and talents, without feeling that the Church which possesses such a Clergy should exert a powerful influence over the religious, moral, loyal welfare of the country. Nor was the laity less remarkable for the same characteristics. Probably in Canada, or in any other part of the world, leaving titled persons out of the question, there could not have been collected, as representing the same interests, a more respectable, able, and influential class of men. We have recently been accustomed to look over Parliament and its audiences. We have, too, seen something of American Legislatures; but in all our experience of deliberative bodies, we frankly confess we have never yet seen, in America, more high intelligence, coupled with dignity of manner and conduct, than we witnessed at the first meeting of the Synod yesterday.

"There was also a short discussion upon the Clergy Reserves, and upon several other matters of high importance, which we shall have to defer alluding to till our next. A Committee of twelve Clergymen and twelve Laymen were appointed to look after the interests of the Church in relation to the Clergy Reserves, and other temporalities. And after the transaction of a vast deal of other and deeply important matters, the Synod concluded its labours at six o'clock, and adjourned. The meeting throughout was marked by the decorum and dignity of manner which characterized the previous ones: and by as the debates sufficiently indicate, great freedom of speech, and no ordinary power and eloquence."

Without adding further remarks of our own, we give the following abstract of some of the doings of the Synod abridged from the *N. Y. Churchman*:—

There were about 140 clergymen present, and a still larger number of lay delegates. The attendance of clergy included all but some eight or ten in the Diocese. After the opening religious services, which took place in St. James' Church, on the 12th, the Bishop proceeded with his charge, which occupied about two hours and a half. The proceedings of the first day closed with duly organizing the meeting, which, it should be remembered, had been called as a Conference.

At the re-assembling of the body on Thursday the 13th, after morning prayers, a vote was carried unanimously, thanking the Rev. HENRY PATTON for his excellent sermon of the previous day, and requesting the same for publication. The next resolution was as follows, carried unanimously and with acclamation:

That this meeting, convened by the Lord Bishop, and composed firstly, of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese; secondly, of the clergy of this Diocese; and, thirdly, of the lay representatives of the several congregations of the Diocese,—are the Diocesan Synod of this Diocese, and that we now proceed to the transaction of business which we have commenced.

So that the meeting, which had been merely called as a conference, was by this vote at once resolved into a Synod. The next measure passed upon had reference to their brethren in the United States, and was moved by the Rev. T. B. FULKER. It was as follows:

Whereas, During the last year the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, by and with the advice and concurrence of the Council of Trinity College, Toronto, was pleased to appeal to the Churchmen of the United States, in behalf of that Institution; and to depute the Rev. Wm. McMURRAY, D. D., Rector of Ancaster and Dundas, to present this appeal; and whereas, that gentleman was most cordially and affectionately received by the Churchmen in all parts of the Union, which he was enabled to visit, and his applications for aid answered by the most munificent donations, amounting in money, lands, and books, to the large sum of ten thousand dollars.

Resolved, unanimously, by the Synod, consisting of the Lord Bishop, the Clergy, and the Laity, representing the several parishes and missions of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Diocese of Toronto, that their warmest thanks are due and are hereby most cordially tendered to their brethren in the United States, for their fraternal, timely and munificent contributions to that most important Institution.

We regret that time and space will not allow us to enter upon the discussions of the Synod, which were marked by great ability and decorum, were full of spirit and manly determination, and showed that the minds of the speakers were thoroughly furnished and ripe for the occasion. The proceedings of the second day wound up with the appointment of suitable committees to prepare and report matter for the further action of the Synod.

The Bishop having in his charge discussed the subjects of 'The Colonial Church Regulation Bill,' of 'The Clergy Reserve Question,' of 'Education,' of 'The Division of the Diocese'; and these subjects having been referred to one of the committees aforesaid, a report thereon was offered on the morning of the third day, as follows:

The Committee appointed by the Lord Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Toronto, in Diocesan Synod assembled, to prepare measures relative to the Colonial Church Bill, the Clergy Reserves, Education, and the Division of the Diocese, beg leave to report:—

That they have carefully considered and fully discussed the several important subjects referred to them, and that they respectfully recommend the following resolutions for adoption by the Synod in regard to the same.

1. Resolved, That a petition be presented to Her Majesty the Queen and the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament, praying for the passage of such a measure as shall remove all doubt as to the legality of the holding of Diocesan Synods in the several Dioceses of the Colonial Church, so that all question as to the proceedings of the meeting held yesterday in resolving itself into such Synod may be finally set at rest. Such application to have reference merely to a measure permitting the holding of such Synods, leaving it to the respective Synods to adopt such rules and canons as they may think proper, provided that the same be not repugnant to the laws of the local Legislature, or the Articles and Liturgy of the United Church of England and Ireland.

Resolved, That a petition be presented to the three Branches of the Canadian Legislature on behalf of this Synod, praying that they will withhold their sanction from any measure which may be introduced for the spoliation of the property of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Diocese, and representing the gross injustice of permitting such spoliation, as well because of the solemn and declared final settlement of the Clergy Reserve question in 1840, as because it is proposed to apply the principle of no State endowment of religion to the Protestants alone, while the State endowments of Roman Catholics are to be respected.

The Committee appointed to consider the four subjects brought before the Synod, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolutions with reference to the important subject of the Division of the Diocese:

1. Resolved, That it is the unanimous opinion of this Synod, that it is high time that the recommendation of his Lordship the Bishop, that this vast Diocese should be immediately divided, should take effect as speedily as possible, and that two additional Sees should be created, one east and the other west of the then remaining Diocese of Toronto.

2. That in order to promote this important object, and to accelerate so desirable a measure as the Division of the Diocese, already presenting a field of labor much beyond the exertions of any individual Bishop, however faithfully and diligently employed, as they are in the case of our present revered Diocesan, it is expedient that an Episcopal Fund be forthwith commenced, and that the amount contributed for that purpose within the limits of the proposed Dioceses respectively, together with a moiety of what may be contributed by the then remaining Diocese of Toronto, be reserved for the maintenance of the Bishops of the new Sees respectively; that one of the four annual special collections be made for that purpose throughout the Diocese; and that the Lord Bishop of Toronto be respectfully requested, by pastoral letter or otherwise, to invite contributions from the members of the Church generally towards carrying out this important object.

3. That the Lord Bishop of the Diocese be respectfully requested again to renew his exertions for the immediate division of this important Diocese, and that he be empowered by this Synod to adopt and recommend such measures or plans to the proper authorities as may in his opinion be most expedient for ensuring this desirable object.

The several parts of the above report were taken up in succession, and all of them carried with almost entire unanimity. The Second Committee, to whom had been referred sundry miscellaneous items of business, then reported the following series of resolutions:

Resolved, That this Synod are unanimously of opinion that as in the Jewish Church they who ministered about holy things lived of the sacrifice, and they who waited at the altar were partakers with the altar; even so in the Christian Church, it is by our LORD ordained that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Synod, one of the most serious practical difficulties connected with the Church in this Diocese is the want of an assured

respectable income for its ministers in general. That in consequence of the existence of this evil, the people are perishing for the lack of knowledge; there are comparatively few ambassadors of CHRIST to send to them: the present clergy are, many of them, seriously crippled in their means; the hearts of the young discouraged from entering the ministry, while the wealthier classes of the community, actuated by a like fear, rather hold back, than encourage their sons to take Orders.

Resolved, That a Committee for General Purposes be appointed by this Synod, consisting of 12 clerical and 12 lay delegates, of which his lordship the Bishop be *ex-officio* Chairman, who shall sit and act from time to time, until the next meeting of this Synod, to consult and advise upon matters connected with the Church in this Diocese, to frame and report rules and regulations for the future guidance of this Synod, touching the future election of delegates to the Synod—the mode of procedure at meetings thereof, and all things necessary to insure order and despatch therein; to report from time to time upon such matters as they may have considered, and from such reports to cause a condensed statement to be printed and forwarded to the members of the Synod, at least one month previous to its next meeting.

That, we the Church of the Diocese of Toronto in Diocesan Synod assembled, take this, the first opportunity which has presented itself, to offer to our Holy Mother, the United Church of England and Ireland, our hearty congratulations on the great increase which the Church has received by the return of those to the ancient Church of Ireland who had embraced the errors of Rome, and we desire to ascribe glory to GOD the Father, GOD the Son, and GOD the Holy Ghost, for this wonderful outpouring of His SPIRIT on our hitherto unhappy Ireland, and further that our Bishop be requested to communicate these our congratulations to the Primate of all Ireland, and the other Archbishops.

That this Synod would respectfully suggest that his Lordship the Bishop should adopt such means as he deems most fitting to obtain the removal of these disabilities which exist, or are supposed to exist, in the case of the clergy ordained in the United States, which prevent their being received into this Diocese on an equal footing with those who possess English or Colonial ordination.

Certain other motions were then made concerning the future meetings of the Synod, which ended in a common understanding that the Synod was not to be regarded as delinquent, but that the time and place of its assembling should be left to the Bishop. Whereupon his Lordship made a brief and earnest address, and, having expressed his satisfaction at the harmonious course and happy issue of the proceedings, dismissed the Synod with the Episcopal benediction.

Most sincerely do we congratulate our brethren in Canada West on this auspicious inauguration of the Ecclesiastical Legislature in their Diocese. Synodical action, in the real and true sense of the term, is there now a fact as well as a right. With all the smoothness of the proceedings, a spirit has been manifested, which, we are confident, will not easily be induced to back out. Their principle evidently has been, to hasten slowly; and they have taken care not to go so fast or so far in anything, as to have any steps to retrace. *The Church*, comments upon the matter thus:

"Our Synod, if not regularly constituted, has at least, an existence. What has been done, if not put down by arbitrary authority (which there is not the slightest reason to apprehend), will be repeated: and that, we have no doubt, under the sanction of an Imperial permissive law, and with requisite completeness of organization. The Church has manifested her life, and claims her rights. She has assumed her proper position with dignity and firmness, whilst she has not been forgetful of the respect due to the powers that be. Her petition to the Imperial Government, not for spiritual privileges which she inherently possesses, but for removal of doubts and disabilities, evinces her love of order; whilst her act, on the late memorable occasion, proclaims her sense of her commission and her powers."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The correspondence from Cape Breton has been mislaid, and we fear lost, in the Printing Office. Will our esteemed Correspondent oblige by providing another copy.

The Address spoken of by our Chester Correspondent, we cannot find, by an examination of our files, which are however, imperfect. It has probably therefore not been published—but our recollection does not serve us at all in the matter.

HARRIED.

On Sunday morning the 30th October, at the Parish Church, Sackville, by the Rev. T. Maynard, Rector of the Parish, Mr. GEORGE BARNET, of Beaver Bank, to ELLEN, daughter of Mr. Godfrey Shultz, of Sackville.

On the 6th inst., at Jodore, by the Rev. R. Jamieson, Mr. JOHN MITCHELL, to Miss MARY SITTMAN, of Glen Harbour.

At Dartmouth, on Sunday last, by the Rev. Mr. Morris, Mr. WILLIAM CRAIG, of Halifax, to MATILDA CROWELL, of Porter's Lake. Also, by the same, Mr. GEORGE CRAIG, to Miss MARY ANN HAMPTON, both of Halifax.

At Annapolis on the 26th ult., by the Rev. E. Gilpin, Mr. H. H. SWYMER, of Kentucky, to MARGARET, second daughter of Alfred Whitman, Esq., M. P. P., of Annapolis Royal.

On Sunday, the 13th inst., by the Rev. J. McMurray, Mr. JAMES WARNER, to Miss JANE HENRY. At Chelsea, Mass., Oct. 29th, Mr. SILAS CURRY, to MARY E. WOODWORTH, both of Nova Scotia.