

of the British Empire. We had but to petition the proper authorities, and the Act of our enfranchisement was passed, and the royal assent was as readily accorded to that Act, extinguishing though it did every right and prerogative of the Crown which could in any way shackle, or interfere with, the free internal self-government of the Church.

When we see that not a step can be taken by the deliberative Councils of the Church at home without special and continually renewed permission—that her Councils too are merely *deliberative*, and possess no legislative authority—when we see how cumbrous and unwieldy the whole system of ecclesiastical law has become, how antiquated and out of date much of it is, we cannot but rejoice at the free and untrammelled position in which we now find ourselves.

In no feature is the revolution more marked than in the share given to the Laity in all our Church legislation—their participation in all our Synodical proceedings. At home, the intimate union of the Church with the State may have rendered this less necessary. The civil legislature is also the Church legislature; and the Church is represented by her Bishops sitting as peers in the upper house. And however insufficient this system may be for the present exigencies of the Church, and under the altered character of modern parliaments, yet the laity of the Church have still in parliament a certain control over Church laws and Church affairs. The case being far otherwise in our Provincial legislature—the Church not being in any way officially represented there, nor having any special recognition more than other religious bodies, it became evident that in any system framed for the internal self-government of the Church the presence and co-operation of her lay members was both a right to which they were entitled, and an advantage to the Church as a whole. The nature of this lay representation has now been settled, its mode of operation has been successfully arranged, and it is working harmoniously and beneficially to the admiration of the Church here and elsewhere.