

The Church Guardian

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Special Notice.

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CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER.

SEPT. 5th—11th Sunday after Trinity.

" 12th—12th Sunday after Trinity.—*No tice of Ember Days.*

" 15th—
" 17th—
" 18th— } **EMBER DAYS.**

" 19th—13th Sunday after Trinity.—*No tice of St. Matthew.*

" 21st—St. Matthew, A.E. & M.

" 26th—14th Sunday after Trinity.

(*Notice of St. Michael and All Angels.*)

" 29th—St. Michael and All Angels.

PRAYER FOR UNITY.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace, give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one Hope of our calling! one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD.

Ere this number of the GUARDIAN reaches many of our subscribers, this august Council of the Church of England in Canada (the latest title for which is, according to the *Witness* "THE EPISCOPAL PARLIAMENT of Canada,") will have commenced its sessions. Sincerely do we pray that God may grant unto every member thereof the spirit of a right judgment in all things that may be submitted for its consideration, and that all may work harmoniously together for the furtherance of the best interests of the Church of Christ in this land.

Owing to the elevation of the former Prolocutor of the Lower House to the House of Bishops through his election since last Synod to the See of Niagara, much interest centres in the choice of his successor. There can hardly be any doubt that the mantle so worthily and ably worn as Prolocutor of the Lower House,

by the Rev. Chas. Hamilton would have fallen by common consent upon one as well suited to wear it by reason of his eminent position, scholarly attainments, and long service in the position of Clerical Secretary—we mean the Rev. Canon Norman; but the Diocese of Montreal has been robbed of this honour through the partizan action which excluded him from its list of delegates—for the now avowed purpose of preventing his voice being heard in opposition to the pet scheme of obtaining degree conferring power for the Theological School of that Diocese. The general opinion seems to be that the Chairman of the House should be a *member*; though the Constitution does not in terms require it, and the *consensus* of opinion is against any such limitation in the case of the Secretaries. We have said that the Diocese to which we belong has been robbed of this honour, because as not only entire impartiality—but also entire absence of a suspicion even of a leaning to one or other side, should characterize the Chairman, those in that diocese who might otherwise be qualified will, doubtless, be regarded as necessarily ineligible through their strong party interest in at least one important question to be discussed, and their determination to obtain a particular decision upon it by the exclusion of argument against it, by any of from their own diocese. There will not, however, be any lack of men suitable to fill this honourable position; amongst others there is the Rev. John Langtry, whose able defence of the rights and position of the Church of England as against the assaults of the Roman Bishop of Toronto, and his well known ability and learning would seem specially to point out as worthy of such an honor; the Venerable Archdeacon McMurray—beloved of all—and who, were it not for his advanced years, would probably be the choice of all; Dr. Bethune, of Trinity College School; Dr. Partridge, of Halifax, and others of the Clergy—not including any from the Diocese of Quebec, since they too might be considered to some extent committed to one view of the Theological College matter. Precedent, as well in the action of the Synod itself in the past, as historically, would seem to require as Chairman of such a body as this one of the clerical order; but if this be not absolutely necessary, or the rule under special circumstances may be departed from, then there are two laymen whose names will at once suggest themselves as eminently qualified, viz.: Chief Justice Allen, of Fredericton, and Hon. George Kirkpatrick, Speaker of the House of Commons. We have no doubt that our readers will await with like interest as ourselves the announcement of the choice made.

Should it be determined to adhere to the practice hitherto followed, (as wisdom would seem to dictate), and elect one of the Clergy to the office of Prolocutor; the Constitution provides a means whereby the practical knowledge of such laymen as the Chief Justice and the Speaker might be rendered available for the guidance of the Chairman in enabling him to appoint *Assessors* to aid him in preserving order and decorum.

For Clerical Secretary doubtless Canon Norman will be nominated and elected unanimously, the question of eligibility as a non-member

having, as we have said, been in effect generally admitted. For Lay Secretary, in the place of Dr. Johnson,—absent we believe,—one from the neighboring Diocese of Quebec or Ontario will probably be chosen, (in the absence of a qualified Montrealer), in order to facilitate the preparation of the Report and ensure ready communication one with the other.

JUDGING from the number of motions standing over from last meeting (some of them surely pretty stale after the three years keeping), and from the notices of new business already given, the present Session will be a lengthy one. Whatever its duration, it is sincerely to be hoped that every delegate will feel bound in honor, and from a sense of duty towards the Church, to remain *until the whole work before the Synod shall have been accomplished*. It does not reflect credit upon a deliberative body such as this to adjourn leaving a large amount of unfinished business. Other Christian bodies manage to keep their great Central Councils together for weeks, whilst in the past it has been found difficult to retain the members of our Synods together for more than seven days. There are many subjects of pressing importance demanding attentive consideration and settlement by this Council; and we hope due time and full consideration will be given to all such, and that, except for causes beyond control, no delegate may withdraw before the duties of the office assumed by his acceptance of the election shall have been fully discharged.

We have already in former numbers expressed the opinion that the relation of the Diocesan Synods to the Provincial Synod, and the jurisdiction and powers of the latter, are subjects which appear to be of primary importance, and which claim the earliest attention. What matters are included under the terms of the Act "*general management and good government* of the said Church in this Province?" There should be no uncertainty on this question: else there will be disorder and conflict.

ANOTHER subject worthy of the most careful consideration is the constitution and working of the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions. The report of its three years' existence will compare, we have reason to think, but poorly with that of the much belittled organization which preceded it, and which we are bound to say in its simpler form seemed much more likely to succeed than does the present cumbersome and unwieldy body. Judged by the results achieved by one and other organization, the present one is comparatively a failure; it has not aroused such a general interest in the work of Missions as it was asserted would follow upon its formation: nor has it rendered unnecessary the direct personal appeals of agents from the Northwest and of the Bishop of Algoma. If we are not incorrectly informed, it has been found necessary for the Sister Church in the United States to virtually do away with the General Board of Managers by centralizing the power in the hands of a General Paid Secretary, who controls the administration of affairs, and renders the frequent meetings of the Board unnecessary.