

Another most important and difficult question that will come before us is that of the appointment of Bishops. There is scarcely any question on which there is more diversity of opinion and, I may add, hesitancy. We have to face the question at once fully. In most other cases Provincial Synods have arisen from the confederation of existing Dioceses that had already had provision made for the election of their Bishops, and they have had simply to provide for the division of Dioceses, or the conditions under which a Missionary Organization should pass into a Diocesan. Even when Dioceses are large, circumstances have attended election by the Diocesan Synod causing much grief, and creating in the minds of many the gravest doubt as to its propriety. Still, I confess I do not see my way, in the case of a large Diocese with self-supporting congregations, to a preferable course. But our Dioceses are yet simply Missionary Organizations practically, and it is quite unusual in such cases to have that method of election. In the case of the Bishopric of Rupert's Land, we have to be peculiarly careful, because the trusteeship of the endowment is not in our own hands, and though I have reason to believe that ultimately there may be no objection to the Diocesan Synod having the appointment, we must see that the arrangement we conclude for the appointment will be such as will approve itself to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Leith Trustees, and that will stand scrutiny if further powers (I mean from the Parliament of Great Britain) should be found necessary. I do not conceal my feeling that I should be glad of an arrangement that would defer for some time the final settlement of the Patronage, and yet leave it for the time in safe and conscientious hands. In a few years the mind of the Church may be more made up on the best solution of the difficulty. There will, too, be this further advantage, that in that case the settlement of the appointment of the Metropolitan will also be deferred till the Dioceses are larger and the whole subject has been more fully considered. Let me then commend this question to the solemn consideration of the House of Delegates. I am sure all must feel that the Bishopric is not to be treated simply as a prize. The work of the Church must under God be greatly dependent on the Bishop for many a day. I need not say that in wishing the Patronage for a time to be with the Archbishop of Canterbury, I have no sympathy with seeking a Bishop elsewhere if the suitable man were already in the country. I have already quite sufficiently shown this. More than that I dare venture to say that if such a man clearly stood out he would be quite as likely to be appointed in this way as in any other.

A short Canon of Discipline has been proposed. This is a most necessary measure; and though the Canon is brief, it is hoped that it is sufficient for meeting any case. The offences mentioned are less numerous than in many such Canons, but it was thought better to avoid vague terms, such as frivolous conduct, to which any meaning might be attached, and which might open the way to petty and vexatious charges where there was no real criminality.

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