

NOVA SCOTIA
Church Chronicle.

VOL. IV.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY, 1868.

No. 2.

"Ad profectum sacrosanctæ matris ecclesie."

THE LAMBETH COUNCIL.

WE publish in this number part of the final Report of the Committees appointed by the Lambeth Council, and are sorry that want of space compels us to reserve the remainder until next month. But it is good, and will keep. Its strength appears by the first instalment which we publish, recommending the formation of a Court of Final Appeal, the necessity for which has been abundantly shown by the Colenso case. For this result we may thank God, who has thus brought honey out of the lion's carcass.

It is well said by the committee, that "great dissatisfaction would arise if important questions were decided by those Colonial Churches, the circumstances of which render it impossible for them to form a sufficient tribunal of last result." God's wisdom and goodness has wonderfully over-ruled the Colonial Churches, so far, for by His good Providence no crucial question came before any of them for final decision, until the troubles in South Africa showed that the danger was only latent, and might at any moment break up the peace of Christ's household. The General Convention of the Anglican Church in the United States has, since its formation, been enacting canons—the Colonial Synods have in some cases commenced to do the same—the Convocations of Canterbury and York have entered upon the work of Church legislation—the Church in Ireland is on the brink of a revolution,—and to expect that this state of things could go on in our branch of the Catholic Church without the enactment of contradictory laws and the consequent destruction of our unity, would be absurd indeed. But God, who causeth men to be of one mind in an house, awakened among us a strong desire for unity. Humanly speaking, this desire was born before its time. National jealousies divided England and America. The revival of Catholic doctrine caused great searchings of heart and much hard speaking in the Anglican Church. But catholic charity, like a purifying flame, is sweeping away those various impediments, and many waters cannot quench love. The wood, hay, and stubble is disappearing, and the valuable part of each man's work begins to be seen and appreciated. We shall no longer look to a Parliament of all and no religions to frame or alter our Church laws, or select our Bishops, nor shall we submit the trial of our Colensos, our Williamses or our Voyseys to free-thinking lawyers. We claim for ourselves the right for which every other religious body would contend to the death—the right to make our own Church regulations in our own Synods and Councils, and to cause our infidels to "Hear the Church" or leave it. We shall now, by our General Anglican Councils, keep all branches of our Church in general agreement and ever-increasing brotherly sympathy, whilst each branch shall have the right of adjusting all minor