

XII.—CANON OF DISCIPLINE.

(1.) Any Bishop, Priest or Deacon of this Ecclesiastical Province may be tried for the following offences:—

(a.) Crime or Immorality.

(b.) Heresy or False Doctrine.

(c.) Wilful violation of the Constitution, Canons and Regulations of the Provincial Synod or of the Synod of the Diocese in which he holds office.

(2.) The trial of any Priest or Deacon shall take place in each diocese according to a Canon to be framed by the Synod of that diocese, provided that in case of Heresy or False Doctrine the accused Clergyman may appeal on conviction to the House of Bishops, provided notice of appeal be given to the Bishop within thirty days of the conviction.

(3.) Any charge against a Bishop must be presented to the Metropolitan, or if the charge is against the Metropolitan it must be presented to the Senior Bishop in writing, signed by not fewer than two clergymen and four lay communicants, of at least the age of twenty-four years, of the diocese of the accused Bishop. The Metropolitan or the Senior Bishop, as the case may be, shall then take steps to satisfy himself whether there is sufficient ground for proceeding against the accused, and if he should conclude that such grounds exist he shall send a copy of the charge to the accused Bishop. If the latter admits the charge to be true the Metropolitan or Senior Bishop shall pronounce sentence as provided by this constitution. If he denies the charge, the Metropolitan or Senior Bishop shall send copies of the charge and reply to the Bishops of the Province and summon them to meet for the trial of the case. The accused Bishop shall then be summoned to stand his trial at the time and place appointed. If the charge should be for Heresy or False Doctrine, the accused Bishop shall have power to appeal from the decision of the House of Bishops to the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose decision shall be final, provided that notice of the said appeal shall be given to the Metropolitan or the Senior Bishop within ten days of the delivery of the sentence.

(4.) Any charge against a Bishop, Priest, or Deacon must be presented to the proper authority within two years after the commission of the alleged offence, and not afterwards, provided that whenever such charge shall be brought in respect of an offence for which a conviction shall have been obtained in any court of common law such charge may be brought against the person convicted at any time