

elect—not the man best fitted for the office of bishop, but the best for that of Metropolitan. (Hear, hear.) Both on the question of number and that of the qualifications or quality of the bishop (Mr. Bancroft) would oppose the amendment. He was opposed also to its unsettling effect. As regards the question of feeling, their sympathies and affections should naturally cling round one man as their beloved and venerated bishop, and the diocese should not be liable to be distracted by having to choose three men for the office of bishop any more than a man should have to choose three wives. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) How could the delegates from this diocese ever throw away their right of electing their bishop. What right had they to do so. They could not bind the diocesan synod to their action in this respect either. The two questions were totally inconsistent, and he had seen no plan yet by which they could be coalesced. The twenty names in the committee which drew up the canon represented every portion of the province, and all its various opinions, and might justly be regarded as representing this Synod's views.

Several voices—No, no.

Rev. Canon BANCROFT.—A majority of the committee, 15 he believed, having agreed upon this canon—

Rev. Mr. ROE (interrupting)—The positive vote of the committee had not been taken. There was a sort of negative vote taken. But if a direct, positive vote had been demanded, he believed several members would not have voted at all, while others would have voted against the report. He himself would not have voted for the canon.

ANOTHER MEMBER.—Why did you not say so at the time? It is not right to throw out such statements at this stage.

The DEAN OF MONTREAL, asked was it not possible that some of the committee who voted for this canon might have since changed their minds on hearing the debate? He, for one, had.

Rev. Canon BANCROFT, continuing—It was impossible to say whether in 20 years or so should a vacancy occur in the Metropolitan See this city would still be the best place. It was possible the province might be extended into Rupert's Land, and the population greatly increased, and other circumstances also much altered. He was compelled to concur with Archdeacon Brough's remarks upon the Romish influences prevailing in this city, and the character of the adherents of the Romish church. The deadening, palliating influence of Rome as regards our church, was strengthening day by day, under the ultramontane influence upon us; and the act of the last legislature cutting us away from our brethren in Upper Canada, and leaving us to manage our own affairs, had left us without a ray of hope that we should ever exert any great influence for the Protestant cause in Montreal. Those who had like himself been born in Montreal would have marked the steady, onward progress of the Romish church, which progress was terrific, and threatened to absorb every other influence. And, therefore, as a legislator for the whole church he was not prepared to say Montreal should be the Metropolitan See for ever, although at the same time he would like to see it here. When a vacancy occurred here let the diocesan Synod meet and elect their bishop untrammelled by any influence, and if fit for Metropolitan let him be appointed; or let the bishops meet and appoint a Metropolitan. In any event the Provincial Synod could reverse whatever action might now be taken when it seemed best. (Hear, hear.)

Rev. Mr. WOOLRYCHE and a lay delegate im-

plored the House to come to a decision as speedily as possible, as much time had been spent and delegates were going home.

The DEAN OF MONTREAL stated he voted in favour of the canon when on the committee, but had since changed his mind on hearing the debate, and was now prepared to vote for the amendment. There was no proposition brought before the committee by which he could see how they were to preserve the rights of the Diocese of Montreal, should that be a non-perambulatory Metropolitan See. The principle reason for his changing his views, was involved in the receiving of the letters patent. He felt they should not commit such an indignity as overriding the letters patent, unless there was an absolute necessity. But in adopting this amendment the necessity in question was done away with.

The PROLOCUTOR said it appeared to his mind that it was attempted to change a fixed See to a changing one. It had been said the other dioceses would not be satisfied to see the Metropolitan See fixed here, but he believed they would be satisfied in time. He had seen great changes take place in public opinion even since they had entered upon synodical action. All the laymen he had spoke to on the subject of the elective principle, had expressed themselves entirely dissatisfied with the working of the system of electing bishops.

Several lay delegates signified their dissent from the laymen referred to by the Prolocutor. One of the lay delegates said, they were perfectly satisfied with the system, in his diocese, and hinted that the Rev. gentlemen had spoken to parties living in a diocese where the principle had not been sufficiently tried.

The PROLOCUTOR continued—With respect to future changes of sentiment he believed the tendency would be towards unity and conservatism. He believed that this city was eminently fitted for the purpose of a Metropolitan See, as it was now, and would likely continue for a long period, if not the civil at least the commercial metropolis of Canada. The presence of the deadening influences of Romanism would be another argument in his mind, for bringing here vivifying influences, and he looked up to the assembling here of the synod as likely to exert a vivifying influence. (Hear, hear.) He could not look upon this question in the same discouraging light as Rev. Canon Bancroft. The English language and literature was spreading among the French Canadians, and a missionary enterprise was in full operation, for the purpose of bringing that people into our own church. The mission was young yet, but knowing that our doctrines were the truth, he also knew that this being so they must prevail. Could they help hoping that the progress of the English language and their Protestant literature and sentiments might be brought more and more into connection with French Canadian minds, and that they would in the end prevail. The progress of the Sabrevois Mission would shew there was hope, and that the constant admission of converts into the church would make this city still more important as a metropolitanical see. With regard to the precedent of the African Church cited, he would ask where could they find in all history a case in which, after a metropolitanical see had been fixed in any one place, that see became migratory. Did not all or the majority of the sees resolve themselves into fixed sees, the tendency being to fix the see in one place. He desired to advocate the ancient principle, which was, when a vacancy occurred, for the bishops of the other dioceses to meet together in the vacant see and take counsel with the diocese and afterwards elect a bishop. This was the principle followed by the church ever since the times of the

Apostles. By this plan the Synod would still have the power of approval or rejection, and the bishops could not carry any thing against the vote of the former. This would tend to bring harmony into our councils. The principle of the primitive church was that no bishop should be forced upon a diocese without their consent. He thought Rev. Mr. Palmer's amendment appeared nearer to a specific solution than any thing yet brought forward. He would rather, however, they could have some other arrangement which would leave the nomination of metropolitanical in the hands of the bishops, and the acceptance in the hands of the synod.

Rev. Mr. PALMER then rose, as mover of the amendment, to close the debate, by replying to the objections which had been made to it. In the first place as the question, whether the see should be perambulatory or not; second, was Montreal the fittest place for the Metropolitanical See; and third, how were they to reconcile two apparently conflicting rights?—the right of this synod to legislate in the matter, and the right of the synod of the diocese of Montreal to elect its own bishop. His (the speaker's) proposition, as set forth in the amendment he had moved on the previous day, was, when a vacancy occurred in the office of metropolitanical, to present the names of three clergymen to the House of Bishops and from those three their Lordships would select one as bishop of Montreal, and he would succeed to the office of metropolitanical. It had been stated in objection to this amendment, that even if it were adopted, it could not be made binding on the synod of Montreal—there would be no security for its performance. But in answer to this he might say that if they adopted the perambulatory system, they would have no security for its permanence, because no legislation in the matter can, in the nature of the case, be final. In any future session the Provincial Synod might repeal it. He thought that the permanence of any arrangement on this subject was altogether dependent on the consent of both the Provincial Synod and the diocese of Montreal. It would not be wisdom to adopt any measure that might be found objectionable to either House. In the second place, he wished to ask was it at all likely that the diocese of Montreal would object to an arrangement which secured to them the metropolitanical see, and the exercise of their rights as electors so far as to assure them that no one shall be appointed to be their bishop who is not the object of their own free choice. But he is willing to add to his amendment the words, "if the synod of Montreal shall not present three names, the right of electing the metropolitanical shall be vested in the House of bishops." Another objection made to his amendment was that it would practically vest the election of the metropolitanical in the diocese of Montreal, the diocesan synod might elect one eminent man, and two others utterly unfit to be either bishops or metropolitanical. But could they for a moment suppose any christian assembly would adopt a course so unworthy as to nominate men who were not fit to pre-ide over it. Supposing however, that this course was adopted, he thought that it would be competent for the Provincial Synod to determine that a diocesan synod that acted in such a manner should never be able to repeat the experiment, by fixing on some other see as the metropolitanical see. Another objection had been made by the Rev. Mr. Holland, who said that the House of bishops should send down two names to the synod of Montreal, and that if that synod should reject them both, then the House of Bishops should send down two more. Now he would ask what would be the effect of this pro-