

IV. Should the election be made by the Synod, the Declaration of Election shall be signed in duplicate in presence and on behalf of the Synod by the Dean, Archdeacon or other Chairman presiding, witnessed by one Clerical and one Lay member.

One of these declarations shall be transmitted without delay to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other kept in the Registry of the Diocese.

V. The approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury having been obtained his Grace shall be requested to take the necessary steps for the consecration of the Bishop elect."

This Canon was amended and brought into its present form in 1888, when the Bishop was proposing to give 6 months notice of his intention to resign his See.

At that time the suggestion was made by some of the prominent Laity that the appointment of an assistant or Coadjutor Bishop might so far relieve our Diocesan as to obviate the necessity of so early a retirement on his part.

But nothing could then be done in the matter because as no such appointment had been contemplated when our Canons were framed, no provision had been made therein for such a contingency.

Nearly all the Colonial Dioceses however have such provisions in their Canons, and their absence from our Canons was felt to be a defect. To remedy this 7 clauses carefully selected from the well tested rules of other Dioceses were submitted to Synod in 1891 and passed.

THE NEW CLAUSES.

The clauses were as follows:

VI. In the event of application being made by the Bishop for the appointment of a Bishop Coadjutor on the ground of age, or infirmity having rendered him incapable of fully performing the duties of his office, the Synod shall decide upon the application, and in the event of its being granted, the Coadjutor shall be appointed by the same rule and under the same conditions as those laid down for the election of a Diocesan Bishop.

VII. The Coadjutor Bishop shall perform such Diocesan duties, and exercise such Episcopal authority as the Bishop shall assign to him, and if the Bishop shall not assign any such duties and authority, or if any difference shall arise between the Bishop and his Coadjutor, regarding the same, the matter shall be referred for decision to the other Bishops of the Province.

VIII. On the vacancy of the See, the Coadjutor Bishop shall have the right of succession as the Diocesan Bishop.

These clauses, however, needed to be confirmed at a second session, before they could be incorporated among the Canons of the Diocese, and it was the proposal to confirm them that raised the discussion, which has terminated so unfortunately.