

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND.

The Synod was opened on Wednesday, May 23rd, 1877, by the celebration of Divine Service at half-past 10 o'clock A.M. in St. John's Cathedral.

Morning Prayer was read by the Revs. Canons Grisdale and O'Meara. The Lessons were read by the Rev. H. George and the Rev. S. Pritchard. The Epistle was read by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Cumberland.

The Bishop delivered the following Address instead of a Sermon :

REVEREND BRETHREN AND BRETHREN OF THE LAITY :

When we look back on the past year we have great cause for thankfulness. That which has been for a long period such a scourge to the country did not trouble us. There was a satisfactory harvest. Later on the energetic measures of the authorities, with God's blessing, preserved the Province from the small-pox that raged so virulently among the Icelandic immigrants. And when we look forward the prospects of the country are bright indeed. Immigrants are coming in large numbers from the older Provinces. The steamers are crowded. The result is very appreciable.—Winnipeg is growing with marvellous rapidity, and other small towns begin to rise up, while a considerable population is being scattered over the face of the whole Province. Various questions that retarded the progress of the country are being settled. The railways have not been built with all the despatch we could have wished, but they are constantly being pushed on, and there seems a probability of a greater advance this year than ever. The issuing of patents and the settlement of the reserves seem at length to be proceeding satisfactorily. We are no longer isolated. By means of telegraphic communication, connecting us with the States and Canada, newspaper enterprise presents us daily with the latest telegrams from all parts of the world. The telegraph already has been carried for about a thousand miles to the west of us. The expenses of living are considerably less than they have been for some years. We can have in our houses the conveniences and luxuries of modern life. We may look forward to a near future when we shall have tasteful and substantial public buildings and residences and when the fertile land of this country will be made to beautify their surroundings.

But if as citizens we feel gladdened by the signs of progress and prosperity, we have further reason as Churchmen to feel thankful for the marked advance which our Church has made in the past year, and to be encouraged by it to renewed efforts. Within eighteen months five new churches have been built and opened for divine service (four of them being consecrated), and another church has been considerably enlarged. Four other churches are in course of erection. These are all within the Province, and represent contributions from ourselves of over \$10,000. Outside the Province there has been a good deal done in the erection of buildings at mission stations.

There has also been a considerable advance made in contributions from the people towards the support of their ministers. One congregation