

meet occasionally as one body, and discuss questions affecting her general well-being. This led to the Winnipeg conference, which took place in that city in 1890, with the result that, after the whole question had been debated and reported upon by the provincial synods, as well as by the various diocesan synods, delegates were appointed to meet in Toronto to form themselves into the first General Synod for the Dominion of Canada.



HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP
ROBERT MACHRAY,
Primate of all Canada.

This is the body which assembled in the Convocation Hall of Trinity College, Toronto, on September 13th. It was a goodly sight for Canadians to see as many as fourteen bishops assembled together, coming from as far east as Halifax, and from Vancouver Island on the extreme west. The bishop of Montreal, unhappily, was too weak, through his late illness, to be present; and the bishops of Selkirk, Moosonee, Mackenzie River, and Caledonia were absent, owing, no doubt, to their great distance from Toronto. An idea of their difficulty of attendance may be gathered from the fact that the bishop of Athabasca, who came to attend the synod, will not be able to return to his diocese till the spring of the year. His lordship will, therefore, remain during the winter in Toronto.

It was, as we have said, a goodly sight to see these bishops. If only good John Horden, first bishop of Moosonee, could have been present! But his Master had called him home. Then, who would not like to have seen Bishop Bompas, the self-denying missionary who loves to keep himself in the neighborhood of the Arctic Circle?

Prominent amongst the bishops present was the metropolitan bishop of Rupert's Land, the Most Rev. Dr. Machray. A man of great size and stature, striking in appearance, with long, flowing beard, heat once attracts attention; and when his missionary work is taken into account; his years of loneliness in the great Northwest, when he ministered chiefly to fur traders and Indians; his battling with the cold as he journeyed immense distances by dog sleighs, sleeping at night in the snow, with the heavens as his roof; watching the interests of the Church as the country began to be populated, until, in Winnipeg, which grew up under his episcopacy from a mere traders' fort to be a fine city, a large school and college, handsome churches and substantial endowments were established; his helping always the formation of new dioceses till a goodly number of suffragan bishops

were gathered round him, he stands forth with a prominence which, from all sides, will be cheerfully accorded to him as his right.

The other metropolitan, the Most Rev. Dr. Lewis, bishop of Ontario, though through illness much absent of late from his diocese, has been connected for many years with the history of the Church in Ontario. "When I commenced my work," he said, in his opening address to the General Synod, "exactly forty-four years ago as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, on the banks of the Ottawa River, there was no diocese of the Church of England west of the diocese of Toronto, except Rupert's Land, which was then being organized, and eastward there were but three dioceses, Nova Scotia, Fredericton, and Quebec, within the limits of the present Dominion of Canada. To-day we meet to unite, if possible, nineteen or twenty dioceses into one organic whole. Surely we may well exclaim, 'God hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.'"

But, besides the bishops, there was a goodly array of deans, archdeacons, canons, and other dignitaries. There were also well-trying and prominent clergymen of all kinds, and laymen, noted for positions in their own dioceses, gathered together from different parts of the Dominion.

At the very outset, a difference of opinion between the bishops and the other members of the conference caused a spirited and somewhat heated debate. Their lordships took for granted that the synod was established by the mere fact of its having come together, and therefore immediately after the opening address, and after having appointed Dean Grisdale to preside temporarily over what they called the "Lower House," withdrew; but after earnest request from the clerical and lay members, they returned again, and remained until a constitution was drawn up and agreed upon. Prominent among those who took part in this debate were the bishops of Rupert's Land, Toronto, and New Westminster, Rev. Dr. Langtry, Rev. Provost Body, Very Rev. Dean Carmichael, Rev. E. M. Bland, Dr. L. H. Davidson, Mr. Justice Hanington, Judge Ermatinger, and Messrs. J. A. Worrell, Richard Bayley, and Matthew Wilson.

There was great rejoicing when this debate ended amicably, for more than once the bishop of Rupert's Land, on the one hand, and the Montreal delegates on the other, felt it their duty to threaten to withdraw from the conference. Everything was settled, however, by a committee being appointed to adjust the difficulties which had arisen.

In the constitution subsequently agreed upon, it was resolved that there should be an Upper and a Lower House, and great safeguards were established to avoid hasty or oppressive legislation. Any question proposed may be sub-