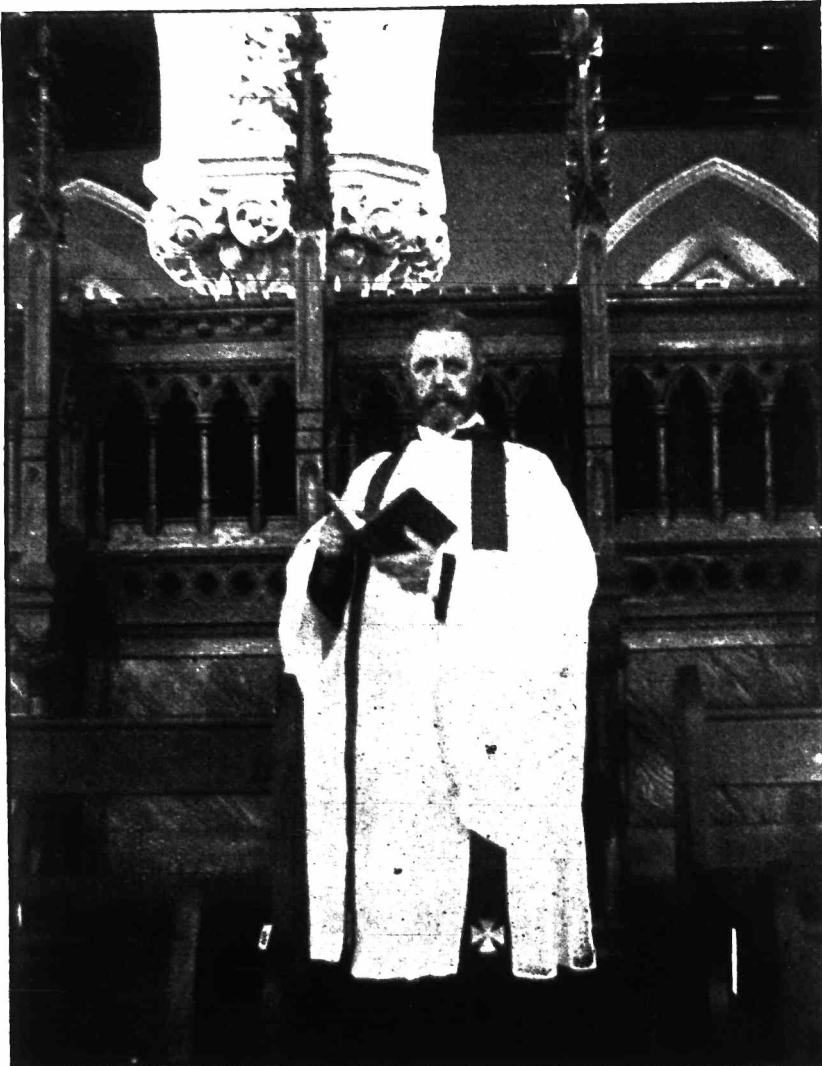


have recourse to the costly luxury of a lawyer's opinion.

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL. TORONTO.

It may seem tiresome to many to have their attention drawn to this important matter again, but to the true members of the Church the subject of securing the property and the building of the cathedral of the diocese in the future can never be anything but a labour of love—a sacred duty lying close to the prayerful heart, a duty we owe to ourselves, our diocese, our bishop, our Church and our God. We flatter ourselves that the articles which it is the pleasure of the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN to publish from time to time, are helping to keep alive in the diocese and country a feeling of kindness and consideration for this great and important undertaking which lies so near to our bishop's heart, and has become to him a cause of so much anxiety. We rejoice to hear that the scheme presented to the city churches last year, namely, of each adult contributing twenty-five cents every three months, is working satisfactorily, and that the churches in the rural districts and parishes throughout the diocese are voluntarily taking it up, and determined to work it as it should be worked. The question is, shall we have a cathedral—a grand rallying centre of Church life—in the chief city of our diocese, or shall we stand by in cold indifference and let the project collapse and fall to pieces? Look, fellow Churchmen, at this matter in the true light, as members of the family of God. What interest has our bishop in this undertaking? Why is it? Ask yourselves, did he ever commence it? Will the building and completion of it augment his scanty income or add to the comfort of himself or his family? No. It is more labour, more toil, more mental anxiety, but as a soldier of the Cross he is willing to spend and be spent if only he can raise a structure to the glory of God and befitting the chief diocese in this Canada of ours. Among the pleasant spots in our Christian career that we look back to with delight is the preparation for the "laying on of hands," and all the blessed thoughts and holy resolves of ardent, loving hearts, as the day for holding confirmation approaches. The Father-in-God who laid his hands on our heads and breathed over us the prayers of the Church has always the place of love, respect and attachment in our breast. How often do we hear the expression, "Bishop so and so confirmed me." I remember well, a good many years ago, being confirmed by our good bishop in the old parish church," etc., etc. Now we think the human heart is still as grateful as ever it was, and ready to do something in return for the countless blessings that follow in the train of being made the recipient of the spiritual gifts of confirmation. Since our bishop came to preside over this diocese he has confirmed no less than twenty-eight thousand candidates. This Christian host comforted and established, and strengthened, are, we trust, not forgetful of the blessings they received when the hands of their earthly Father-in-God were laid upon their heads. Twenty-eight thou

sand make a goodly "army of the living God." This article we trust will be read by many of them, and we hope and pray that the hints here thrown out may awake in the breasts of many of these thousands, scattered over the diocese, a resolve fixed and sure to contribute themselves



REV. A. MACNAB, M.A., CANON OF ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL.

and enlist others to join in gifts and bequests until the Church shall have St. Albans out of debt, its spires, towers and pinnacles pointing



ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL.—SOUTH SIDE OF CHANCEL.

heavenward, a pride and glory and rejoicing to every loyal Churchman in this fair city and diocese.

TORONTO DIOCESAN SYNOD.

In consequence of the early departure of the bishop to England the Synod meeting in Toronto promises to be more uninteresting than usual. Year by year the Diocesan Synod becomes duller, and it is a matter of regret to observe the little interest taken in it. True, there have been flashes of excitement, but of a character which none of us can think of with any other feeling than profound regret. The monopolizing tendency of Toronto is greatly to blame for this state of things. The diocese is a difficult one—one large city, a few large towns and the usual village parishes and missions from which there is a constant drift to the city. The country parishes are represented by Toronto people as their lay delegates, and these gentlemen attend the Synod in the intervals of business, and during the rest of the year form the overwhelming majority of the committees. It is difficult to overcome this evil, but the danger should be recognized and may be largely mitigated. Suppose that next year the Synod met in Peterborough, a beautiful situation and as easily accessible as Toronto. The Toronto delegates would be fewer and those who would be present would be there for business only. In every direction they would find much instruction, and a few excursions would teach them more of the needs of the country than many Synods in Toronto. It might even happen that some of our clerical delegates, seeing the bright side of a country life, might be self-denying enough to exchange their city rectories for backwoods parishes. Another matter in which we think a considerable saving could be effected, and which therefore is well worth the attention of the Synod in these times, is the utilizing of the Toronto rectory buildings now on the hands of the Synod, as far as we can do it. We are paying a large rental for the accommodation which the Merchants' Bank gives. Why not make use of one of the two houses on King street? A little alteration would make them most suitable quarters for the Synod's offices. The Church property would be improved and a step taken to do something towards using one's own and benefiting oneself in place of paying a large rent to outsiders.

THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has authorized the use of the following prayer for the conference of bishops to be held this year, being the same as the one authorized in 1888:—"O Lord God Almighty, Father of lights and Fountain of all wisdom; we humbly beseech Thee that Thy Holy Spirit may lead into all truth Thy servants the bishops now (to be) gathered together in Thy Name. Grant them grace to think and do such things as shall tend most to Thy Glory and the good of Thy Holy Church: direct and prosper, we pray Thee, all their consultations, and further them with Thy continual help, that the true Catholic and Apostolic Faith once delivered to the Saints being maintained, Thy Church may serve Thee in righteousness of living and in all godly quietness: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."