

scholarly manner by Professor Clark, of Trinity College, Toronto, met with but little sympathy, if for no other reason than that the initiative in such a matter ill became a small section of the Church, such as was there represented.

The need of the sub-division of some of the Dioceses and of increased Episcopal supervision, expressed by the Lower House, was readily approved of by the Upper House, and is likely to lead to the formation, at no distant day, at the instigation of the Bishops interested, of two new Dioceses, one in Nova Scotia and the other in the Province of Ontario, in addition to that of Ottawa, already well nigh consummated. The Bishop of Algoma, whose protracted illness threatened, at one time, the necessity of his resignation, has happily so far recovered as to justify the hope that his valuable services to the Church may yet be enjoyed for some years to come. With a view of perfecting, if it may be, his recovery, he is to take another six months' leave of absence, his Episcopal duties, the meanwhile, having been assumed by the Bishops of Toronto, Niagara and Huron. Very little was done in the way of defining the relative powers and jurisdiction of the Provincial and General Synods, it being probably thought that time itself would best solve this difficult problem.

In connection with the Report on the Church's growth, the imputation that she was failing in her duty towards, and losing her hold over the poorer classes, called forth an animated and lengthened debate. The justice of the allegation was denied by many delegates from the Western and the Maritime Dioceses. Speaking in behalf of the Diocese of Quebec, Mr Balfour said that if the charge was well founded, it was one's duty no less than one's wisdom, humbly to acknowledge it, and then seek earnestly to amend the defect, but that whilst all could wish that the Church's growth was more rapid than it is, he was in a position as Secretary of the Church Society and possessed of the needful statistics, to affirm, which he did confidently and thankfully, that never before in the history of the Diocese of Quebec, was the membership of the Church of England greater, the number of Communicants greater, the number of children under religious instruction in Sunday and Day Schools greater, the tract of country covered

by our Missionaries greater, or the amount of contributions towards Home, Foreign and Domestic Missions greater, than at the present time. It was true of the City of Quebec, that whilst twenty-five years ago its non-Roman population numbered some ten or twelve thousand, it stood to-day at only about one-half of these numbers, of whom the greater part were members of the English Church. For the majority of the English poor, he was thankful to say, belonged to her Communion, and these not only received at the hands of the City Clergy special attention, but they were, speaking generally, as regular in their attendance upon the ministrations of the Church as were the rich; and by reason of the free-pew system, which, happily prevailed almost universally throughout the Diocese, the rich and poor sat side by side, and enjoyed an equal welcome and like privileges. With respect to the Diocese at large outside of Quebec he said, that whilst the public statistics showed a decrease in the English population during the last ten years, they showed an increase in the membership of the Church, a fact which was confirmed by the reports of the Clergy. Admitting, he said, that statistics were not always a true index of spiritual life, he could not but adduce, as an evidence of the growth of a right and noble Christian principle, the steady increase that had been going on for years, in the contributions of Church members, not alone for the religious privileges enjoyed by themselves, but, which was a far better test—for religious objects extra-parochial and extra-diocesan, the fruits of which they themselves never expected to see. And in connection with this he evidenced the voluntary relinquishing by the Diocese of the S. P. G. grant of \$4,500 per annum, on the occasion of the Centenary Celebration, and the general effort made to provide a fund, the interest of which was to take its place, and all this without injury to current obligations. This he thought bore testimony to Christian principle and growth. Mr Hamilton pointed out that the fund referred to was the Bishop Williams Memorial Mission Fund, which within three years had grown to \$40,000. Dr. Thorneloe and Chancellor Heneker, of Sherbrooke, testified to the expansion of the Church in the Eastern Townships, and her steady growth in good works and holy influence. All this is most encouraging, and should lead our Clergy and Lay Members to labour hard for the increase of the Lord's Vineyard and for the good of souls.