

if a Synod had been called ten years ago, when I had the privilege of entering on my ministerial labours in the diocese, or even five years ago, there would scarcely be a parish which would not now be represented. Supposing some parishes at first held aloof, many would at once obey the bidding, and if the Synod were but a voluntary association, it would at least be the proper method of Church government for the management of local and diocesan affairs. And anything is better than the long-continued state of inaction in the matter. An endowment fund was spoken of more than ten years ago, and you have not yet done anything in the matter. Why not begin? If the rich laity of St. John refuse to do the part which belongs to them, it is not correct in principle to deprive willing hearts in many portions of the diocese of the opportunity of laying by in store, as God hath prospered them, to meet the evil day in pecuniary matters which has now come upon the diocese.* All the dioceses in Canada have formed funds which have been increasing year by year. They began with a little—all were invited to give. Most gave, few refused. In days of Confederation, in stirring times in the political world, the Church in the colonies is up and doing also. Some bond of union is felt to be necessary for preserving the united action of

the Church. The Church in the States has cemented again the bond which binds together the Church of the Northern and Southern States. The Bishop of Honolulu, feeling a desire for some co-operation and fellowship, sought admission to the Council of the Convocation, proving the existence of the strong desire I have mentioned for some ground of mutual counsel, whatever may be the opinion formed of the act itself. Excuse me for saying that if something is not done by you in Fredericton diocese, you are very likely to be left by the wayside. But we shall hope to hear better things for the Church through the united vigorous action of Church members and ministers.

I am, dear Mr. Editor,

Very faithfully yours,

P. W. L.

*[We beg leave to remind our readers that it is still open to them, as always has been the case, to provide in each parish a fund for its local endowment. His lordship the Bishop, in his late charge, points to this method as likely to be the most successful and satisfactory.—
ED. CH. MAGAZINE.]

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN CHURCH NEWS.

ON the Fourth Sunday in Advent, the Lord Bishop of the diocese held an ordination in Christ-Church Cathedral, Fredericton, when the Rev. I. P. Sheraton, missionary at Welford, was admitted to the priesthood. The candidate was presented by the Rev. John Pearson, who, with the Rev. G. G. Coster, joined the Bishop in the imposition of hands. The ordination took place at 11 o'clock, morning prayer having been previously said at half-past eight. The Holy Communion was celebrated, and the ordination sermon preached by his lordship the Bishop.

WE are happy to hear that, in several churches, zealous laity have been diligently employed during the last two weeks in adorning the houses of God for Christmas. In the Cathedral, and in the Parish Church, the workers exceeded their former efforts and in St. Paul's, Portland, and Christ-Church, St. Stephens, we hear that good work has been done; though we are sorry to say, no account has reached us. On Christmas morning the usual service was held in the Cathedral at half-past eight, A. M. At the service at 11, a carol was sung by upwards of thirty children. The music was well performed, and 121 communicants remained to "keep the feast." A collection was made for the poor, amounting to \$44.24.

AT a meeting of the Liverpool and Birkenhead Open Church Association, the Rev. Dr. Baylee (the chairman) said that in the previous year the Offertory at his church amounted to £355, and that in the ten months of this year it had amounted to nearly £400. It was satisfactory that of the £355 only £10 was in sovereigns, and that by far the largest part was in coins under sixpence. He had not yet entirely adopted the unappropriated system, but he now felt disposed to do so.

CEYLON.—The Bishop of Colombo has summoned the Diocesan Synod to meet on 20th of last month and following days, to consider various important matters affecting the welfare of the Church in Ceylon. Every clergyman in priest's orders is entitled to vote, and each sends one or more lay represen-

tatives, who must be in full communion with the Church.

ITALY.—The following appears in the *Guardian* as the basis of a Reformation of the Italian Church:—

1. The Pope to be Bishop of Rome and Primate of the Universal Church; and the Œcumenical Council, presided over by the Pope, to be supreme judge in questions of faith.
2. The Bishops, Archbishops, and Metropolitanans to be reinstated in the full rights of their diocesan jurisdiction as exercised up to the end of the tenth and beginning of the eleventh century.
3. Integrity of the ecclesiastical hierarchy, and of the free vote of the clergy and people in the election of Bishops, parochial clergy, and of the Pontiff himself.
4. The Liturgy in the national language, with the free circulation of the Scriptures in the vulgar tongue.
5. Sacramental confession to be voluntary on the part of the penitent faithful, and in accordance with the canons of the third and fourth century as regards the priestly jurisdiction.
6. Restitution to all ordained priests of the consultative and deliberative vote in the Diocesan and Provincial Synods.
7. Abolition of obligatory celibacy.
8. Full and complete liberty of conscience.

AN influential meeting was held at the Liverpool Town-hall in November, under the presidency of the ex-Mayor, Mr. Edward Lawrence, on the subject of Church extension in that town. The Bishop of Chester, the Rev. Rector Campbell, Mr. S. R. Graves, M.P., and a large number of clergymen and merchants were present. After some preliminary explanations as to the great want of church accommodation in Liverpool, it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of the chairman, and seconded by the Bishop of Chester, to form a society. A sum of over £20,000 was subscribed, including ten subscriptions of £1,000 each, and several of £500. In the course of the proceedings, the Rev. Dr. Hume stated that in the new districts of the town there were 160,000 people, with only twelve churches.