

THE CANON ON ELECTION OF A COADJUTOR BISHOP.

The question most freely discussed during the meeting of the Synod just past, was the proposal to add certain clauses to the existing Canon on the election of a Bishop.

The discussion that then took place and the newspaper correspondence since indulged in, have made it apparent that the points at issue were and still are imperfectly understood by many, and we purpose therefore to review the subject in this article, and to put on record some of the arguments that may be supposed to have influenced the decision arrived at by the Synod.

THE PRESENT CANON.

The present Canon on the election of a Bishop, runs thus :

" I. When the See is vacant, or when formal notice of resignation shall have been given to the Synod, the Bishop, or in his absence the Dean, or in his absence the Senior Archdeacon, or in his absence the Archdeacon next in seniority, or in his absence the senior Priest of the Diocese, shall, within one fortnight of the date of such vacancy being brought to his knowledge, or after formal notice shall have been given as aforesaid, summon a special meeting of the Synod to meet at the Cathedral City of the Diocese, in not less than three or more than six months from the date of such summons, for the purpose of electing a successor to the See, and during the vacancy of the See no other business shall be transacted by the Synod.

II. No election shall take place unless half of all the Clergy and Lay Representatives be present.

The vote of a majority not being less than two-thirds of each order present, shall be necessary for such election, the Chairman voting with the Clergy. If the required number of Clergy and Lay Representatives should not assemble at such special meeting, the members present shall adjourn to any day within one week, and so on from time to time until the required number of Clergy and Lay Representatives shall assemble, when the election shall be proceeded with.

The Chairman, for the purpose of this Rule shall be the Dean, Archdeacon or Senior Priest of the Diocese, or in his absence one of the Clergy to be elected by the meeting.

III. On the day and at the place appointed, the Holy Communion having been first celebrated, the Chairman shall declare the meeting constituted, and it shall be in the power of the Synod to elect any Clergyman in Priest's Orders, and of Canonical age, of this or any other Diocese of the Church of England, or of any Colonial branch of the said Church, being duly licensed in the same, to fill the vacant See, or to delegate to any person or body the power of choosing a Bishop for the vacant See, such choice to be accepted by the Synod as final. All such proceedings to be with closed doors until the final declaration of result.