

bury, "humbly entreating His Grace to convene a National Synod of the Bishops of the Anglican Church at home and abroad, who, attended by one or more of their Presbyters or Laymen learned in Ecclesiastical Law, as their advisers, may meet together, and under the guidance of the Holy Ghost take such counsel and adopt such measures as may be best fitted to provide for the present distress." This address passed unanimously in both houses of our Provincial Synod. In reply to the address we received an answer from the Archbishop of Canterbury expressed in as encouraging terms as could be possibly anticipated; and in an interview recently afforded me, His Grace assured me of his warmest sympathy in the contemplated movement. The Provincial Synod moreover adopted a memorial on this subject to the Convocations of Canterbury and York, in consequence of which, in the Session of May last, a resolution was agreed to by the unanimous voice of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury, "that His Grace the President be respectfully requested to direct the appointment of a Committee to consider and report upon the address of the Canadian Branch of the United Church of England and Ireland." The answer to this request was the direction to appoint the Committee, who drew up an able Report, which states, "your Committee are, however, of opinion that the thing most to be desired is a Council comprising the American and Scottish Branches of the Anglican Communion, together with all the Branches of the United Church of England and Ireland, and its independent Missionary Churches. \* \* \* \* \*

"In the event, however, of insurmountable obstacles being found to arise in the way of assembling such a Council (which they see no sufficient cause to apprehend) your Committee are of opinion that no time should be lost in convening a Representation of the Churches in lands subject to the British Crown, for the consideration of the special difficulties affecting those Churches or some of them, at the present time, in respect of their relations to one another, and to the Mother Church."

The Report goes on to enumerate the principal advantages to be derived from the proposed Council, which appear to be these:

1. "To afford an opportunity for the Churches of the Anglican Communion to confer together upon questions or errors which may appear in these days to imperil the acceptance of 'The faith once delivered to the Saints.'"
2. "To provide a broad basis upon which to found attempts to bring about intercommunion with other portions of the Church Catholic. \* \* \*
3. "The discussion and affirmation of the common principle of a right Ecclesiastical discipline as 'one of the Notes of the true Church.'"
4. "The consideration of the principles upon which Constitutions and Canons applicable to the whole body of the Anglican Communion may best be framed; to be reduced into practice subsequently, as may be found advisable by each Church for itself."
5. "The taking counsel together as to the best means of sanctifying the Commerce, Emigration and Colonization of the English-speaking populations throughout the world, for the promotion among them of a Christian civilization."
6. "The consideration in what ways the Missionary action of the several Churches of the Anglican Communion may be quickened and carried forward in brotherly co-operation, harmony and fellowship."

Such topics as these would at all times form an absorbing subject for the prayerful consideration of the Church of Christ, because they may be