

The Synod of Fredericton.

The meeting of the Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton, held at St. Stephen, has been marked by great unanimity and concord. While there have been no burning questions, such as occasionally bring the divergent opinions of men of the freest Church in the world to the front, and which are healthy if sometimes vigorous: attention has been closely given to a number of matters which concern the smooth and progressive working of the diocese, and of which the benefit will be increasingly apparent. This Synod is the first which has been held since the unification of the Synod and the old Diocesan Church Society, and a good deal of the work which used to be done in the D. C. S. meetings is now done in committees. The results alone of which come before the Synod. Thus while opportunity is still afforded for discussion, there is much concentration of labour.

The Synod met this year in the parish of Christ Church, St. Stephen whither the members journeyed on the evening of July 4th. On their arrival they were met by the sight of bonfires, rockets and other fireworks and illuminations, which at first appeared to be in honour of the Synod, but which proved to be the celebration of the glorious 4th and of the American success at Santiago by the people of Cuba.

The Synod began by a choral celebration of the Holy Communion on Tuesday morning, July 5th, in Christ Church, at which the Bishop was celebrant, assisted by Dean Partridge as Gospeller and Archdeacon Brigstocke as Epistoler, with the rector, Rev. O. S. Newnham, as server. Most of the clerical and lay delegates who had arrived were present. At ten o'clock, Morning Prayer was intoned by Rev. B. Barton, of Canterbury, the sermon being preached by Ven. Archdeacon Brigstocke, from Heb. XIII. 8. The preacher delivered an excellent practical discourse, which was much appreciated by the large congregation. The service was very hearty and the singing good.

At 2 p. m. the synod met for business, the Lord Bishop in the chair. By this time other delegates had arrived, so that when the roll was called, so far from there being too small a number to transact business, as had been by some predicted, there was found to be a full attendance of the clergy, and a larger number of laity than there had been the last time the synod was held in St. John.

The address of the Lord Bishop was of his usual lucid kind, and was delivered with much animation. It dealt with many matters relating to the welfare of the Church in the diocese, and was illustrated by

the events occurring on all sides of us. After paying a warm and discriminating tribute to the late Rev. Richard Simonds, who was ordained in 1846, and who passed his whole clerical life in the service of this diocese, the bishop touched on Acts of Legislature which had been obtained regarding sale of lands, the Incorporation of the Cathedral Chapter, and other objects; the question of Registration; the S. P. C. K.; the Diocesan Mission Fund; the General and Provincial Synods; the election of Metropolitan. He also urged the offering of special prayers for the preservation of peace, which appeared to be seriously menaced throughout the world. The Bishop's address was referred to a committee, as usual.

The reports of the various clergy having the care of souls, which were read by those presenting them were of great interest and historical value. They indicate the performance of duty in that quiet way which is characteristic of the Church of England. These reports were written in a modest and unostentatious spirit, and were almost entirely confined to matters of fact, no padding of any kind being needed. The Church is clearly holding her own, in the midst of many hostile influences, and is on the whole, probably, steadily gaining.

The following gentlemen were elected as delegates to the Provincial Synod, which meets in Montreal in September:—

Clergy—Dean Partridge, Archdeacon Brigstocke and Neales, Canon Roberts, Rev. J. M. Davenport, O. S. Newnham; Canon Forsyth, H. Montgomery, T. B. Hooper, Spovil Neales, J. Roy Campbell, A. G. H. Dicker.

Substitutes—A. D. Dewdney, C. P. Hannington, C. Wiggins, H. E. Dibble, A. W. Smithers, R. P. McKim.

Lay Delegates,—G. A. Schofield, C. N. Vroom, Judge Hannington, J. Roy Campbell, T. Barclay Robinson, A. C. Fairweather, H. L. Sturdee, E. A. Simmonds, George Burchill, Hurd Peters, Henry Wilmot.

Substitutes—Dr. Deacon, W. B. Wallace, H. S. Wright, C. E. L. Jarvis, A. H. Hannington and W. E. Smith.

Another matter of great importance to which the Synod applied itself is that of the Sunday School. Associations of Teachers have long been in existence in the deaneries, and will now be affiliated to a Diocesan S. S. Teachers' Association, whose meetings will be annual. The church is beginning to see that a movement which originated within her bosom is her own child, and must be cherished and maintained. The future of our Sunday Schools looks at present very bright.

This matter of Sunday School

development has been under the care for some years of a committee of Synod, of which Rev. H. Montgomery, of Kingsclear, has been chairman, and Rev. E. B. Hooper, of Moncton, has been secretary. Great credit is due to these gentlemen as well as to the whole committee for the time and pains they have given to this great question, which is now beginning to bear fruit. The debate on S. Schools was earnest and able. Very Rev. Dean Partridge, Ven. Archdeacon Brigstocke and Neales, Judge Hannington, A. H. Hannington, Hurd Peters, and others took part. The committee's report was adopted, and power was given to form the Diocesan Association.

Much attention has been paid during the year to the very important question of systematic and proportionate giving, by a committee of which Very Rev. Dean Partridge is chairman. A good deal of literature has been circulated throughout the diocese, and a Diocesan Society of the Treasury of God is to be formed, to which parochial societies can be affiliated. Many churchmen feel that upon the success of this movement depends the increase of funds which must be obtained if the Church is to do her duty to herself and to others.

The committee on religious instruction in the public schools has also been doing good work. Under the chairmanship of Archdeacon Brigstocke, conferences have been held with representatives of other religious bodies, and although nothing very definite has as yet been accomplished, yet the public mind is being familiarized with the question. Progress must necessarily be slow.

A good deal of trouble has been taken by the Bishop since his connection with the diocese in the matter of Registration. He has now succeeded in bringing it into order, and the unanimous confirmation of a Canon on the Diocesan Registrar, shows how the synod appreciates his Lordship's efforts.

A better system of appointment to parishes and transfer therefrom has also been under the consideration of the church, but is not yet ready for action. Great caution is necessary here, lest changes, hastily made, bring more harm than good.

Much dissatisfaction prevails as regards the present system of election, and it is safe to say that before very long improvements will be made.

A very large and enthusiastic missionary meeting was held on Thursday evening in the school room of Trinity Church, under the auspices of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the province of Canada, at which the Bishop presided. Stirring addresses were made by the chairman, Arch-

deacon Brigstocke, Rev. R. P. McKim, Mr. C. Ketchum and Mr. A. H. Hannington, in which the claims of Domestic and Foreign missions were ably supported. A vote of thanks was rendered to Mr. Robertson, rector of Trinity church and his churchwardens, for the use of their hall.

The comfort of the clerical and lay representatives was most efficiently attended to by the Rev. O. S. Newnham, rector of Christ Church, and his officials, whose efforts were most cordially recognized by the synod. Mr. Newnham is the very efficient and popular secretary of the synod, and to his zealous labours much of the success of the gathering is due.

Altogether the session now concluded has been very profitable. There has been manifested a splendid disposition to work together, to sink minor differences in the general good, to comfort and strengthen each other in the arduous but blessed work to draw the clergy and their flocks into closer bonds of union in Christ, and to determine to set forth the teaching of the Church, unmoved by either neglect, insinuation or abuse. The Church will pray for herself and for all others, the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind, and confident of her own assured position in the comity of Christendom, will go forward in the cause of her Lord and Master with renewed vigor, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

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