

to which the Clergy, to their lasting honour, had given their free and intelligent consent—by this noble and disinterested act they have merited the gratitude of the Church in Canada, and won for themselves the cordial admiration of all true Churchmen throughout the world.

The principal matter which occupied our attention, during the Session, was the petition to the Legislature for a bill to remove doubts respecting the action of the Synod, and in this we were successful. But being one of those measures which are reserved for the special consideration of her Majesty in council, it had to be transmitted to England.

Much important business was taken up and settled or postponed for further inquiry, and reports received respecting the Episcopal Endowments.

I cannot conclude this very brief notice of our four Synods without adverting to the extensive and beneficial effects which they had by this time produced throughout the whole Church at home as well as in the Colonies. Our first Conference, in May, 1851, by introducing the Lay Element, for the first time, seemed to attract universal attention. The Church Members in our Eastern Colonies who were suffering under the same disabilities as ourselves, followed in our wake; and one of them, Victoria, got before us in the race and obtained a law, while our bill was under the consideration of the Imperial Government, which enables the Bishop, Clergy and Laity to provide for the regulation of the affairs of the Church. Had it not been for this precedent, I very much doubt whether our bill would have become law, because it goes much farther than the Act for Victoria. Moreover, we have acquired the guarantee of her Majesty's Government for other advantages which have not yet been conceded to any other Colony. By the Despatch of the late Sir William Molesworth, the division of the Diocese and the election of Bishops are allowed in a manner which sufficiently guards the prerogative of the Crown, while the full exercise of the privilege is secured. Having given this brief summary of the proceedings of our former Synods, permit me, before commencing the business of the day, to mention one or two matters which seem at this stage of our proceedings to require some notice.

*Elect. of Bishops allowed.*