

On Proceedings in Episcopal Synods, &c.

THE proceedings of the Episcopal Assembly lately held in England, called the Lambeth Conference, have unavoidably attracted very general attention, and drawn forth a variety of opinions as to their true character, and probable tendencies and effects. Many have thought that such an Assembly was altogether needless,—believing that the Articles, Canons, and other laws and regulations, composing what may be called the Standards of the English Episcopal Church, were either quite sufficient as to the faith and practice of its clergy and laity;—or if any alterations were really required, they ought to be made by some legally constituted authority. Others have viewed those proceedings rather with indifference as to their consequences, by reason of the Assembly not having been of any constitutionally authorized character, but merely of a voluntary description. Some others,—even a large number, are of opinion,—not without good reasons,—that although it was of that voluntary nature, some of its measures when carried into operation, will have compulsor, and binding effects, and produce injurious consequences to that Section of the Christian Church; and to truly evangelical religion generally. This last opinion seems to be the best founded, as will be shown by the facts and remarks which will be set forth in the course of this Essay.

The Conference was convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primate of the established Church, and was composed of a majority of the Bishops of that Church, and of the Bishops of the Churches of Scotland, the Colonies, and the States of the American Union. Those of the two last named countries formed the large majority of the Assembly. The Archbishop of