

and enduring basis in this country. It is to be hoped the Synod will neither be surprised nor be misled by a name (Mr. S. B.'s), into doing anything injudicious in so weighty a matter. The facts connected with this question have been a good deal discussed of late years, but new combinations, and new grouping, may be attempted, in consequence of which the unwary may be misled by restless spirits in their attempts to get up interested agitation.

It is nearly twenty years since efforts were commenced by the Bishops, with praiseworthy and judicious foresight, having in view the appointment of a Metropolitan for Canada, to include also other dioceses of British North America. The Bishops met at Quebec, and brought the idea forward before the church in a very quiet and unostentatious manner. But it has never been lost sight of, and was followed up by legislation involving much patient and laborious attention to the subject, all of which steps have resulted in the present settlement, by which Montreal is the Metropolitan See. To many minds this appeared a happy settlement of a long-pending question. At all events its working can hardly be tested in one generation, and it seems a childish and capricious thing to go about to disturb a settlement so arrived at, on the very first occasion of one party being defeated, if defeat it was, in the election. But whether there was defeat or not to any party, it is certain there was much personal chagrin and mortification at the result; this was not confined to one or two, but was felt in a pretty wide range. Now, to some minds, this would rather be a reason for than against *preserving the present state of things*, because one of the greatest dangers the Church has to fear arises from the scheming attempts of ambitious men to promote their own personal aggrandizement. Their disappointment is the Church's gain.

Of far greater account than these personal considerations, is the fact that the ancient usage of the church, on which ours is based, was to attach the office of Metropolitan permanently to some particular See, which was usually that of the chief city of the Province. This usage was had in view by the crown when the city of Montreal was first designated in the Royal Letters Patent. It was understood at the time to be an act of consideration due to Montreal to make it the ecclesiastical metropolis, in consequence of the seat of government being fixed at Ottawa. This arrangement has the further sanction of precedent in the case of the churches of England and Ireland. The modern instances of a divergent practice are clearly traceable to circumstances of depression or persecution, such as the instance of the Church of Scotland, which yet retained the Archiepiscopal Sees of St. Andrew's and Glasgow, as long as it was possible to do so. The only other instance likely to affect us is that of the American Church, although there is no reason, except the influence of near neighbourhood, why it should do so. It was established under very abnormal conditions, and remains so to this day. The American Church has an episcopate without any Cathedral system; so different from the Primitive Church, in which the mother church of the diocese was the centre, around which all the action of the church