

There were powers given to the Bishops by which they might have supplied Delegations, but they preferred not to do so. The Representatives of the Diocese of Rupert's Land, will have therefore to study the more carefully what may be for the interests of the whole Province.

I purpose making a few remarks on some of the questions that may come before us; but I must be understood as not in any way speaking for the House of Bishops, but simply as expressing my own views.

In drawing up a Constitution it will be advisable to confirm the action of the Synod of Rupert's Land in 1873 in forming an Ecclesiastical Province for ourselves.

The Report of the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops suggested that where a Provincial Synod does not exist it should be formed through the voluntary association of Dioceses for united legislation and common action; that the particular mode of effecting this in each case must be determined by those who are concerned; and that the action should have the concurrent assent of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, to whom the Bishops that are extra-Provincial have taken the oath of canonical obedience.

The case with us is very simple. The Dioceses have been all formed out of the Diocese of Rupert's Land under a Canon recognizing an Ecclesiastical Province, and the Archbishop of Canterbury has himself been mainly instrumental in bringing the effort to a successful issue. I have, however, obtained from His Grace his express consent that the Synod of the four Western Dioceses of North America should take in hand the question of the formation of themselves into a separate Province, and his assurance that he will give to what I may forward to him from this Synod the fullest consideration.

I think, looking at the vast extent of this land, it may be questioned whether it will ever be desirable for the Western Dioceses to be incorporated in one Provincial system with either the Eastern or British Columbia, though we may have sometime a Council or Assembly for the whole Dominion. If the progress of the country should make intercourse more easy and lessen differences of condition, it will on the other hand vastly increase population and multiply local subjects for deliberation. In the American Church there is a wide-spread desire for Provincial organizations. And in the Roman Catholic Church in Canada the old Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec, which included most of the country, has been divided into three Provinces, of which one has its Metropolitan See at St. Boniface, close to us. At present our circumstances are so exceptional, the interests of our Dioceses are so bound up with each other, politically as well as religiously, and above all it is so absolutely necessary that that great Society, on which throughout this huge country we at present mainly depend, should have the fullest confidence—a confidence amounting to a certainty—that any Provincial action will

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