

of so many who have known Bishop Hills for years, it is unnecessary for me to say much. But after eight years of intimate official and personal relations with him, I must claim the privilege of bearing my testimony to the unvarying kindness, which has made that period one of so great happiness to myself.

And my own experience has been also that of all the Clergy who have worked under him. We had learnt to love him. Nor are we alone in this feeling. There are many of the Laity of this Diocese who have always regarded their Bishop with the warmest affection. There are some in this room to-day who, when they parted with him three weeks ago, felt that they were parting with a lifelong, trusty friend. And there are none who will not join with me in the hearty wish and fervent prayer that he may be spared to enjoy many years of hard-earned rest.

I feel myself, very strongly—I am sure you must all feel—how much we shall miss the dignified, courteous but firm President, who has hitherto guided our deliberations. I could have wished that the responsibility of presiding over this Synod had fallen into abler and more experienced hands. But I confidently ask the assistance of you all, to sustain and support me in the discharge of the duty which I am called upon to perform. We are Christian men, assembled, under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit, for an object of unspeakable solemnity and importance. Let us prove our fitness for the grave responsibility which rests upon us by the honesty and sincerity of our motives, and by the Christian courtesy and the harmony with which we conduct our deliberations. For indeed the business upon which we are to-day engaged, is both solemn and important. Solemn, because we profess and believe that the Holy Ghost is with us to guide and help us to a successful issue.

Important, because upon our action to-day depends, humanly speaking, the welfare of the Church in this Diocese for many years to come.

Suffer me then, to remind you and myself, that our object in this meeting must be the good of the whole Diocese; not the good of one order, of one party, or of one section; but of all; clergy and laity, city and country. There is no divergence of interest between us. We all desire the same thing: that this Diocese may have—and have shortly—a Bishop worthy of his high office; to whom all of us alike can look up with respect; and to whose governance we may all submit as to that of a ruler sent to us by God in answer to our prayer.

That this, our object, will be attained, I have no shadow of doubt. Our prayers for the Holy Spirit's guidance can not