

PROVINCIAL SYNOD.

The following Address from the Provincial Synod of the United Church of England and Ireland in Canada, assembled at Montreal in September, 1865, was forwarded to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, by the Lord Bishop of Montreal, as Metropolitan and President of the Synod :

To His Grace, CHARLES THOMAS, Archbishop of Canterbury, D.D., Primate of all England, and Metropolitan :

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—We, the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity, of the Province of Canada, in triennial Synod assembled, desire to represent to your Grace, that in consequence of the recent decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the well known case respecting the Essays and Reviews, and also in the case of the Bishop of Natal and the Bishop of Cape-Town, the minds of many members of the Church have been unsettled or painfully alarmed, and that doctrines hitherto believed to be Scriptural, and undoubtedly held by the members of the Church of England and Ireland, have been adjudicated upon by the Privy Council in such a way as to lead thousands of our brethren to conclude that, according to this decision, it is quite compatible with membership in the Church of England to discredit the historical facts of Holy Scripture, and to disbelieve the eternity of future punishment; moreover, we would express to your Grace the intense alarm felt by many in Canada lest the tendency of the revival of the active powers of Convocation should leave us governed by Canons different from those in force in England and Ireland, and thus cause us to drift into the status of an independent branch of the Catholic Church, a result which we would at this time most solemnly deplore.

In order, therefore, to comfort the souls of the faithful, and reassure the minds of wavering members of the Church, and to obviate, so far as may be, the suspicion whereby so many are scandalized, that the Church is a creation of Parliament, we humbly entreat your Grace, since the assembling of a general council of the whole Catholic Church is at present impracticable, to convene a National Synod of the Bishops of the Anglican Church at home and abroad, who, attended by one or more of their Presbyters or Laymen, learned in ecclesiastical law, as their advisers, may meet together, and under the guidance of the Holy Ghost take such counsel and adopt such measures, as may be best fitted to provide for the present distress, in such synod presided over by your Grace.

F. MONTREAL, METROPOLITAN, *President.*

JAS BEAVEN, D.D., *Prolocutor.*

REPLY OF THE ARCHBISHOP.

To the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Province of Canada, lately assembled in their Triennial Synod.

ADDINGTON PARK, DECEMBER, 1865.

MY RIGHT REV., REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,

I have duly received the Address forwarded to me by your Metropolitan, from the late Triennial Provincial Synod of the Province of Canada, requesting me to convene a Synod of the Bishops of the Anglican Church, both at home and abroad, in order that they may meet together, and, under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, take such counsel, and adopt such measures as may be best fitted to provide for the present distress.

I can well understand your surprise and alarm at the recent decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, in grave matters bearing upon the doctrine and discipline of our Church, and I can comprehend your anxiety, lest the recent revival of action in the two Provincial Convocations of Canterbury and York, should lead to the disturbance of those relations, which have hitherto subsisted between the different branches of the Anglican Church.

The meeting of such a Synod as you propose is not by any means foreign to my own feelings, and I think it might tend to prevent those inconveniences the