

tional obligation; and in doing so, only did what they were further bound to do—vote on what appeared to them to be the most eligible name on the list, or the name on which it seemed the Synod would be most likely to agree. They, at least, secured the triumph of the constitution of the entire ecclesiastical Province: and it was noteworthy to observe the manner in which they were plied with threats and intimidation of various kinds. Clergymen, of long standing in the Diocese, were threatened with worldly loss, in no obscure terms, on the very floor of the Synod. Lay delegates used the most bitter invectives against the clergy very freely in general society. Others boasted that they had driven already one from the Diocese, and that others should go. This was avowed, accompanied by coarse language, too shocking to be given here. Adjournments were advised, or threatened, so as to put off indefinitely any election to fill the vacancy, while, at the same time, application was recommended to Parliament for powers to manage the temporalities during the vacancy. It was very evident, too, that the effect of these various moves upon the clergy was most anxiously watched by the leaders; and when it became evident that they were not to be overawed or intimidated, that their phalanx could not be broken, then there was a visible change in the countenances of the leaders, indicating something very like panic among them. It became evident, beyond a doubt, that that body of underpaid and not-too-well used men really had a mind of their own, and a conscientious firmness to adhere to it.

This aggressive attempt upon the freedom of the clergy met with its merited fate. It seems too certain, however, that they will have, for many years to come, to struggle for the just rights of their consciences against an overbearing spirit, which is often artfully played upon by a small minority of the clergy themselves. Such a state of things is one of considerable danger, for whenever the just independence of the clergy is undermined, the last security for the freedom and integrity of the Church at