

impulse in every human breast, and the division of the diocese of Toronto holds out temptations to gratify this impulse at the expense of unity, which it will require foresight, prudence and energy successfully to resist.

With men who look upon history as an old almanac, and who think that they can devise a better system than that which the experience of ages has hallowed, it is useless to argue. But I speak to men who are imbued with the spirit of our Reformers, and with the spirit of our prayer-book; who while they are ever anxious to correct abuses and to reform what has become corrupt, yet ever desire to look for the old landmarks and to restore rather than to destroy.

The Church is like a tree; in one sense, one and undivided; in another sense it extends into numerous ramifications and comprises many branches. But these ramifications are successive. The trunk separates into boughs, the boughs divide into smaller branches; the branches spread into numberless twigs and sprays. And so it has ever been the theory of the Church, that her subdivisions proceed in regular order; the Church Catholic is divided into national or provincial churches; the provincial churches into dioceses; the dioceses into parishes. To disregard any one of these subdivisions would be to subvert the order of nature, and to destroy the fundamental constitution of the Church of Christ. The Church Catholic acts in her general councils; the national churches in their provincial synods (general conventions), the dioceses in their diocesan synods, and the parishes in their parochial assemblies. All these are necessary to the healthy and vigorous action of the Church. The first, general councils, are now, alas! impossible, and it is difficult fully to estimate the loss which the Church sustains by the want thereof. To the others in various branches of the Church there are impediments and hindrances; but these hindrances must be a source of regret to every intelligent churchman, and we ought all to seek their removal when possible, and maintain to the utmost of our ability unity of action and of interests. In Canada especially it ought to be our great aim to prepare ourselves for the union of all the Dioceses of British North America into one Church, and so to shape our course in our

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