

A PROCLAMATION.

John A. Macdonald, Attorney-General.

Whereas, at a Session of the Parliament of our Province of Canada, holden at the City of Toronto, in our said Province, on the fifteenth day of February, in the nineteenth year of Our Reign, and prorogued on the first day of July, in the twentieth year of Our Reign, a certain Bill, intituled "An Act to enable the Members of the United Church of England and Ireland, in Canada, to meet in Synod," was passed by the Legislative Council and Assembly, and was, during the said Session to-wit, on the nineteenth day of June last past, presented to Our Governor-General of Our said Province for Our assent thereto, who in pursuance of the authority in him vested by a certain Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the Session thereof, held in the third and fourth years of Our Reign, intituled, "An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada and for the Government of Canada," and according to his discretion, then and there declared that he reserved the aforesaid Bill for the signification of our pleasure thereon. Now know ye that the said Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the Members of the United Church of England and Ireland, in Canada, to meet in Synod," having been laid before Us in Council, on the 6th day of May now last past, We have been pleased to assent to the same: And We do by these presents, and according to the provisions of the said Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, assent to the aforesaid Bill; of all which Our loving subjects and all others whom these presents may concern, are hereby required to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

In testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of our said Province of Canada to be hereunto affixed: Witness Our Trusty and Well-Beloved Sir Edmund Walker Head, Baronet, Governor-General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over Our Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c. At Our Government House, in Our City of Toronto, in Our said Province, this twenty-eighth day of May, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and in the twentieth year of Our Reign.

By Command,

T. LEE TERRILL, Secretary.

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND IRELAND, IN CANADA, TO MEET IN SYNOD.

Whereas, doubts exist whether the members of the United Church of England and Ireland, in this Province, have the power of regulating the affairs of their Church, in matters relating to discipline, and necessary to order and good government, and it is just that such doubts should be removed, in order that they may be permitted to exercise the same rights of self-government that are enjoyed by other religious communities: therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

I. The Bishops, Clergy, and Laity, members of the United Church of England and Ireland, in this Province, may meet in their several Dioceses, which are now, or may be hereafter constituted in this Province, and in such manner and by such proceedings as they shall adopt, frame constitutions and make regulations for enforcing discipline in the Church, for the appointment, deposition, deprivation, or removal of any person bearing

office therein, of whatever order or degree, any rights of the Crown to the contrary notwithstanding, and for the convenient and orderly management of the property, affairs and interests of the Church in matters relating to and affecting only the said Church, and the officers and members thereof, and not in any manner interfering with the rights, privileges or interests of other religious communities, or of any person or persons not being a member or members of the said United Church of England and Ireland: Provided always that such constitutions and regulations shall apply only to the Diocese or Dioceses adopting the same.

II. The Bishops, Clergy, and Laity, members of the United Church of England and Ireland, in this Province, may meet in general Assembly within this Province, by such Representatives as shall be determined and declared by them in their several Dioceses; and in such general Assembly frame a constitution and regulations for the general management and good government of the said Church in this Province; provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall authorise the imposition of any rate or tax upon any person or persons whomsoever, whether belonging to the said Church or not, or the infliction of any punishment, fine, or penalty upon any person, other than his suspension or removal from any office in the said Church, or exclusion from the meetings or proceedings of the Diocesan or General Synods; and provided also, nothing in the said constitutions or regulations, or any of them, shall be contrary to any law or statute now or hereafter in force in this Province.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the Bill passed by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Canada, in the Second Session of the Fifth Provincial Parliament, and reserved for the signification of her Majesty's pleasure thereon by His Excellency the Governor-General, on Thursday the nineteenth day of June, 1856, and subsequently assented to by Proclamation in the *Canada Gazette*, bearing date the twenty-eighth day of May 1857.

J. F. TAYLOR, Clerk, Legislative Council.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Fuller, seconded by J. W. Gamble, Esq., M.P.P.,

That the Rev. Mr. Van Rensselaer, A.M., Rector of Grace Church, Rochester, be cordially invited to take his seat on the floor of the house. Carried by acclamation.

Moved by the Rev. Henry Patton, seconded by Rev. F. L. Osler,

That the Rev. Mr. Roe, a clergyman of the Church, from the Island of Barbadoes, be admitted to a seat in the body of this house. Carried unanimously.

The list of the Clergy was then called over by the Clerical Secretary; and the Lay Delegates by the Lay Secretary. [A list will be found of both on the last page.]

Moved by Dr. Bovell, seconded by Dr. Fuller, That a Committee to investigate claims of Lay Delegates, and to settle disputes be appointed. Carried.

The following gentlemen were named on the Committee: Rev. Henry Patton, the Rev. Dr. Fuller, and C. J. Campbell, Esq.

Moved by Rev. Henry Patton, seconded by Rev. Arthur Palmer,

That the Rev. J. G. Geddes be re-elected as the Clerical Secretary of the Synod. Carried.

The Clerical Secretary then requested the Rev. T. S. Kennedy to act as Assistant Secretary.

Moved by J. W. Gamble, Esq., seconded by Mr. Campbell,

That Dr. Bovell be re-elected as Lay-Secretary of this Synod. Carried.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Boulton, seconded by Mr. Lawrason,

That Mr. Harman be re-appointed Treasurer. Carried.

Moved by Clarke Gamble, Esq., seconded by Mr. Justice Hagerty,

That Messrs. C. J. Campbell and Wm. Westmacott be Auditors for the present year. Carried.

Moved by Rev. H. Patton, seconded by Rev. E. J. Boswell,

That in order to save the time of the Synod, the reading of the minutes of the last Synod be dispensed with, and that they be assumed to be correct, unless any member has already detected any error in the printed report. Carried.

Moved by Rev. Mr. Dobbs, seconded by Rev. Mr. Rogers,

That the Rev. David Fitzgerald, of Elizabethtown, Prince Edward's Island, be admitted to a seat in the Synod. Carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

The Rev. Mr. Kennedy brought up the following report of the Executive Committee:

We Tuesday, May 13, 1857.

The Executive Committee, of whom were present—The Lord Bishop, the Archdeacon of York, Rev. Dr. Beaven, Rev. Dr. Cronyn, Rural Dean Blake, Rural Dean Palmer, Rural Dean Patton, Rural Dean Fuller, Hon. P. B. DeBlaquiere, Hon. J. H. Cameron, Hon. G. J. Goodhue, H. C. Baker, Esq., J. W. Gamble, Esq., Thomas Kirkpatrick, Esq., S. B. Harman, Esq., James Patton, Esq., W. B. Simpson, Esq., have recommended the following revision of the Constitution of the Synod to be considered at the next general meeting thereof:—

Article I. To expunge the following words: "Or holding office in any College or School under the jurisdiction of the Bishop."

Article II. To add the following words: "The said declaration not to be required unless the qualifications so stated be questioned."

Article VII. After the word "infirmary" to add the words "not under ecclesiastical censure." To expunge the words "and vote thereat," and insert the words "but not to vote thereat."

To add the following Article as Article VIII.: During the necessary or authorised absence of the Rector or Incumbent of any Parish or Cure, the Clergyman acting as Assistant Minister or Curate of such Incumbent shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Synod, but not otherwise, unless licensed to a congregation, regularly organised, independent of that presided over by his Rector or Incumbent.

Article XI. (which would then be Article XII.) to add the words, "the same to have power to appoint an Assistant Secretary."

The Executive Committee have recommended the following Rules and Regulations in regard to the Election of Bishops:

1. That at the election of a Bishop it be necessary that not less than two-thirds of the whole number of the clergy, and of the lay-delegates by parishes entitled to vote be present. That no clergyman be publicly nominated for the office of Bishop; but that the clergy and lay representatives, by parishes, in their separate places, be directed, each and severally, to write upon a card the name of the clergyman whom they would desire to elect as Bishop. That the same be dropped into a balloting-box, to be handed round to each individual by two persons appointed for that purpose. That whatsoever clergyman shall have such a number of the votes of each order respectively, as shall constitute a clear majority of the whole number of each order respectively entitled to vote in such Diocese, shall be declared