

S E R M O N .

PSALM cxxii., v. 3.—“Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself.”—(*Prayer Book Version.*)

In addressing a congregation such as I see before me, it seems to me that it is hardly my province to read lessons of Christian virtue to those who are themselves teachers of the people in the way of righteousness, or to dwell even upon the great doctrines of the Gospel to those who are themselves preachers and heralds of salvation. Advice and instruction will come with greater weight from authority higher than mine.

Forbearing, therefore, from more accustomed topics, I purpose to take up some points relating to the condition of the Church in this country, and to give expression to some thoughts which appear naturally to suggest themselves on the assembling of one of its periodical councils.

There are many features in the present state of the Church in Canada, which are well worthy of notice. The first, and probably the most obvious, is its remarkably independent position. Hardly, perhaps, since the days of primitive Christianity can we lay our finger upon a Church in a similar position. At any rate, in the history of the British Church, we must go back to a period anterior to the arrival of Augustine; for however many blessings attended his mission, it was accompanied by the assertion, and led to the acknowledgment, of a foreign supremacy of nine hundred years' duration—a supremacy which made the Church of England merely a province of one great spiritual empire, almost coterminous with the civil empire of ancient Rome.

Freed from that dominion at the Reformation, it could hardly be otherwise, considering the circumstances of the