

A GREAT CANADIAN CHURCH.

The Church of England in Canada has during the last week taken the most important step in its history. Instead of a Colonial appanage of the great Mother Church it is now a distinct Canadian institution appealing to the sentiments of 644,000 adherents as the national centre around which their affection and loyalty may grow steadily and closely. Instead of an unorganized, scattered mass of worshippers, meeting through their clerical and lay delegates in Provincial Synods, having no recognized central authority, and no attempt at Dominion organization, the Church now has a clear organic unity, with a General Synod for the Dominion similar in its powers to the English Houses of Convocation; a Primate of All Canada after the style of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is Primate of All England; an Archbishop of Ontario and one of Rupert's Land; an arrangement for Provincial Synods and the creation of Archdioceses in connection therewith; and a solemn Declaration of principles.

This would have been a proud occasion for Bishop Strachan—the veteran pioneer of Anglicanism in Canada, the sturdy defender of the Church's interests and institutions—could he have lived to see the present great gathering in the halls of Trinity University. His labors in connection with St. James' Cathedral and his diocese, the creation of King's College—now Toronto University—and the founding of Trinity College when an old man of 72, would have been more than reward by the spectacle of a great remodelled and united Church covering the vast Dominion of Canada. It has indeed been a wonderful work for a week's time, and had not the occasion been ripe, and the harmony amongst the delegates phenomenal, the process of reconstruction could hardly have been so rapid.

Of course the principles, forms and creed of the Church are unaltered. As the Solemn Declaration of the Synod says: "We declare this Church to be and desire it shall continue in full communion with the Church of England throughout the world." And it is also apparent, as the Prolocutor of the Lower House pointed out on Tuesday, that the supremacy of the Queen remains the same as before, and that: "They could not speak of the Church of England without acknowledging the temporal head of the Church, or of the Thirty-nine Articles without recognizing her supremacy."

Loyalty is, in fact, one of the most earnestly taught lessons of the great English Church, as in days of old it was one of its most zealously practised principles. "Fear God and honor the King" is a precept as much regarded by the Church of England in Canada as by the Mother Church at home. And there is no doubt, incidentally of course to the primary objects of a powerful religious denomination, that the adherents of the Anglican Church always have been, and probably always will be, remarkable for their sturdy loyalty to Crown and country. But this in passing.

One feature of the proceedings at the Synod deserves special attention. In its recognition of the fact that there is a growing desire for Church Union and co-operation, the following basis for negotiation offered by the Church of England in Canada is both interesting and important:

"1. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as containing all things necessary to salvation, and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith.

"2. The Apostles' Creed as the baptismal symbol, and the Nicene creed as the sufficient statement of the Christian faith.

"3. The two sacraments ordained by Christ

himself, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord, ministered with unflinching use of Christ's words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.

"4. The historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the unity of His Church."

Though a repetition of the Lambeth Conference resolutions of 1888, this present action transfers the offer, and the opening for discussion, to the New World, and especially to the people and denominations of Canada. A long time may elapse before any practical union of churches takes place, but none the less is the idea and the ideal a noble one, worthy of discussion and careful consideration.

The first general Synod has now adjourned and what has been done merits the approval and sympathetic regard of all Christian men. This union will strengthen the Church and the cause of Christianity, while the two eminent leaders in Christian work during nearly three decades of the past, who have been honored by promotion to the highest posts in the gift of their Church, are more than worthy of the honor. Archbishop Mackray, of Rupert's Land, and Archbishop Lewis, of Ontario, would confer luster upon any position and may be trusted to carry on to full and splendid completion the work of organization so well and vigorously begun.—*The Empire, Toronto.*

The Meeting at Toronto.

On Thursday morning, the 6th of Sept., the Metropolitan and Bishops appeared in the Convocation Hall of Toronto University, where the delegates, Clerical and Lay were assembled, awaiting them, in accordance with the request of their Lordships the previous evening. They entered in stately procession, clad in full Episcopal robes; the Metropolitan of Canada bringing up the rear, and being preceded by his Chaplain carrying the Crosier. On reaching the dais all stood, whilst the Metropolitan opened the meeting with prayer. It then appeared that the Bishops had receded from the unfortunate and untenable position taken by them the previous day.

The presiding Bishop, the Metropolitan of Canada, speaking in behalf of their Lordships said: "My dear brethren, the Bishops are here to meet you in accordance with the resolution sent up to us yesterday afternoon," and then asked for some further explanations, which having been given by the Rev. Dr. Langtry, Mr. Worrell, Q.C., Dr. Davidson, Q.C., Dr. Johnson, Mr. Wilson, Q.C., and others, a short discussion followed, in which their Lordships took part, and it was moved by the Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary, seconded by Dr. Davidson, "That this meeting form itself into a Committee of the Whole, in order to receive, consider and adopt such resolution as will lead to the due formation and constitution of a General Synod." Bishop Courtney asked the presiding Bishop, "the whole of what!" and the reply came quickly from many: of the joint meeting of Bishop, Clergy and Laity. The motion was then carried almost unanimously; after which some discussion followed as to the appointment of a Joint Committee to draft a resolution, declaring the position of this body as empowered by the Diocesan Synods to assemble together for the formation as a General Synod. Whilst this was proceeding the Bishop of New Westminster, with a view probably of expediting matters, proposed the following resolution: "That we the Bishops of the Church of England in the Dominion of Canada, together with the delegates of the Clergy and Laity duly authorized by our several Diocesan Synods and by authority committed unto us, declare we are here

assembled as the first General Synod of the Dominion of Canada." This produced immediate opposition, it being pointed out that the Synod could not be formed until the preliminary basis had been formally assented to.

During the excitement of the moment the Metropolitan put the motion, when Archdeacon Brigstocke, of St. John, N.B., rose to object, and enter a protest against it. This was ruled out of order and again the Metropolitan commenced to put the motion, when the Very Rev. the Dean of Montreal rose and made request that Archdeacon Brigstocke should be heard, as he did not believe that the meeting underseod what it was to vote upon, adding "we cannot be a Synod until we agree upon the basis of union."

Notwithstanding the Dean's request the Metropolitan proceeded to call for the nays to rise; but immediately the Dean, during intense excitement stepped to the front, and in earnest tones, tremulous with feeling, spoke as follows: "It is with the greatest diffidence and laboring under the strongest feelings, that I, in my humble capacity, would ask your Lordships, especially his Lordship of New Westminster, not to press at this present moment a resolution that may rend this conference and rend it under the saddest circumstances, and cause the delegates of a diocese deprived of the presence of its legal head through illness to give utterance to words that we ourselves would regret, and that every single member of the Church here present, I earnestly believe, would be sorry if they were uttered and followed up, as we would be forced to follow them up."

Bishop Sillitoe immediately rose and begged leave to withdraw his motion, if the result was to be such as the Dean of Montreal, intimated; and thereafter the motion of the Lord Bishop of Toronto for the appointment of a committee to submit a declaration to form the basis of union was carried unanimously, and the following committee was appointed: The Bishops of Rupert's Land, New Westminster and Toronto, Canon Partridge, Archdeacon Roe, Rev. Dr. Langtry, Archdeacon Brigstocke, Canon Pentreath, Dean Carmichael, Dean Innes, Canon Spencer, Archdeacon Lauder, Rev. E. M. Bland, Dean Grisdale, Archdeacon Mackray, Judge Ritchie, Chancellor Honaker, Mr. J. A. Worrell, Mr. Justice Harington, Dr. Davidson, Chancellor Bothune, Mr. Matthew Wilson, Chancellor Walkem, Judge Senkler, Mr. Chas. Jenkins, Mr. H. A. Crotty and Mr. Myers Grey. It being then nearly one p.m. adjournment was had till 4 p.m. in order to give the committee time to deliberate and prepare its report. Shortly after 4 p.m. the meeting reassembled, and the committee, through the Metropolitan of Rupert's Land reported as follows:

That having considered the action of the Provincial Synods of Canada and Rupert's Land, and of the several dioceses, your Committee are of opinion that the position of this body now is that it is prepared to declare itself a General Synod upon the following basis, subject to any amendments which may be made and assented to at this session:

We, the Bishops of the Holy Catholic Church in full communion with the Church of England, together with the delegates from the clergy and laity now assembled in the first General Synod of the Church in the Dominion of Canada, hereby make the following solemn declaration:—

We desire the Church in the Dominion of Canada to continue an integral portion of the great Anglican communion composed of the churches which—united under one Divine Head in the fellowship of one Catholic and Apostolic Church, holding one Faith, revealed in Holy Writ, and defined in the Creeds as maintained by the undivided Primitive Church in the four Ecumenical Councils, receiving the same Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as containing all things necessary to salvation—teach the same Word of God, partake of the