

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 qualification so stated be questioned."

Article VII. After the word "infirmity" 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 authorized 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 organized, 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 Regulation 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 individually 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 duly elected. That there be no election, unless with such majority of both Clergy and Laity, the latter voting by parishes.

2. In the event of the subdivision of any Diocese, the portion intended to form the new Diocese shall be bound in all their public proceedings by the Constitution of the Diocese of which they formed a part, until the said new Diocese

shall be fully organized by the election and consecration of the Bishop.

3. Any Clergyman elected a Bishop, and holding at the time of such election any preferment or ecclesiastical income, shall resign such preferment or income upon his consecration.

[Four copies of the above have been sent to every Clergyman in the Diocese. We applied for a list of the Lay Delegates with a view to forwarding them copies, but, though the Constitution provides that their names be sent to the Secretary within six days after their election, we were told that only three parishes had complied with the regulation.]

THOS. S. KENNEDY,
Pro Secretaries.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Synod, held on the 12th of May, it was moved by the Rev. Rural Dean PATON, seconded by the Hon. J. H. CAMERON, and

Resolved,—That the Meeting of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, appointed to be held on the second Thursday in June, be postponed until the assent of Her Majesty the Queen to the Bill now awaiting Her Majesty's concurrence be obtained, and the same proclaimed in this Province; and that the Lord Bishop be requested to summon the Synod as soon as Her Majesty's assent to the said Bill is proclaimed—not less than twenty days' notice being given of the same.

JOHN TORONTO.

The University of Trinity College, Dublin, has conferred the degree of LL.D. upon the Rev. W. B. LAUDER, Rector of Napanee, in this Diocese, he being a graduate of that College.

REPORT

Of the Niagara District Branch of the Church Society.

In presenting this, their fifteenth Annual Report, your Committee would desire to record their humble and hearty thanks to Him from whom all good works do proceed, for the blessings which He has vouchsafed to them, and heartily do they pray that an increased measure of success may attend the operations of the Society during the coming year.

When this Association last met, the war which was being waged against Russia was still going on, though its fury was in a great measure abated—Your Committee have unfeigned happiness in being able to thank God, that in His good providence He has put an end thereto, and given again to our much-favoured land the blessings of peace and plenty; and they earnestly pray that He may, for His dear Son's sake, infuse such a spirit into the nations of the world, that the time may speedily arrive "when they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more," and give themselves with the more earnestness and determination to the endeavour to spread the knowledge of our blessed Lord and Saviour not only within their own borders, but also to the yet spiritually destitute parts of the earth.

Your Committee have to congratulate every member of our Holy Zion on the auspicious meeting of the Church in Diocesan Synod, convened in the early part of May last at Toronto; and though its decisions were not on the whole such as we could have wished, and on some questions much vantage ground was lost which should have been maintained with all our vigour; and had it been maintained by such a body as was then assembled, little doubt can arise but that ere long our point would have been gained, and the essential, if not sacred, principle of separate schools conceded to our church, as nothing more than justice due to such an influential body as in this Diocese it has now become: yet on the whole much has been effected, and the great fact established, that the church can meet in its legislative capacity and discuss matters affecting its well being, without any danger of disturbing the harmony of its members, or of overstepping the bounds of decorum which a body of Christian men should show the one towards the other, however widely they may differ in the carrying out the details as well in spiritual as in temporal matters.

Your Committee cannot omit noticing the earnest and unanimous desire evinced by that assembly of about one hundred and fifty Clergymen, and nearly double that number of the Laity, that our Synodical decisions should have more than binding force in *fero consecutio*, and for this purpose to obtain from our Legislature the necessary powers. They would congratulate the Society and the Church at large in the unanimous and gratifying response that our Legislature made to our petition that they would pass a bill authorising the Church to meet in Synod, and legally to arrange her own affairs.—And while they make these gratulatory remarks, and also express a hope that the bill passed may soon become law; yet they cannot but deeply regret that, notwithstanding the principle of self-government conceded to this country, the Home authorities should have so long delayed to recommend that the royal assent should be given to the "Canadian Church Synod Bill."

Your Committee would also venture to express a hope that the Church at home, may soon be permitted to meet in Convocation, and transact that business which cannot safely be entrusted to any other hands, and which the necessities of "the Church" both at home and abroad so loudly call for and demand.

Your Committee have to congratulate the members of the Church on the prospect of the division of this immense Diocese soon being effected, and a Bishop appointed to the Western portion, the Candidate for the same to be the selection of the Synod of that portion of the Diocese duly convened.

The Committee would now refer with thankfulness to the Report of the Parent Society, presented last June, in which they perceive a gratifying improvement in its income as compared with the previous year. The Committee would also notice with satisfaction the increased energy which the Parent Society has evinced in behalf of the Indian Missions, and they look forward with anxiety and pleasure to the working of the fund that is now being established for the spreading the knowledge of our common Saviour among the yet heathen aborigines of this vast diocese. They also anticipate beneficial results from the formation of a Tract Committee of the Society, which will be considered a branch of that Venerable Body at home, the S. P. C. K., and thus enable the Society to circulate its tracts and other books at members'