

God abiding in us is our life, and communion and intercourse in religious matters are to the clergy most essential means of grace. An annual meeting of the clergy for one week in the year in this city would, I believe, tend to advance their spiritual health and well-being, and I am inclined to think that week should include one Sunday. The loss to the country churches would be more than compensated by the freshness of the pastor on his return. I now commend you to the guidance of the Great Head of the Church, without His spirit assisting, our wisdom is but vanity, "Except the Lord build the house the labor is but lost that built it: Except the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh but in vain."

The Reception at Bishop's Court.—On the evening of the 17th the Lord Bishop gave a reception to the members of the Synod and their wives &c. The evening was enjoyed by all in a most agreeable manner. But the happiest feature seemed to be, the marked way that old grievances were healed. Parties met that had not met in the same manner for some years past. Thus at once beginning to work that spirit of unity that had been so ably preached in the morning.

Death of Mrs. Bond.—Mrs. Bond had been unwell for some time. On the evening of the reception she had to retire once or twice. Her death on the 20th cast a gloom over a large circle of friends. Pneumonia was [the fatal disease that took her away. During her life she endeared herself to all who knew her. Many will miss her acts of kindness and charity.

ONTARIO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

MEETING OF SYNOD.—In the forenoon of Tuesday, June 17th, the opening services were held in St. George's Cathedral. The Rev. John Stan-
nage officiated as special preacher. His discourse from St. Matt. xviii., 7, and 1 Cor. xi., 19, was a thoughtful consideration of the "offences," religious and philosophical, against the truth, which marked the present day, and how best to meet and deal with them. His recommendations were backed by an experience of forty-five years, during which he had never lost one of his people by secessaries.

The business session commenced in the afternoon of the same day at 3 o'clock, the Lord Bishop being escorted to his chair by a number of dignitaries of the Diocese, Canon Jones bearing the Pastoral staff. Before calling the rolls, the question of assessment arose as no session was held last year. The Chancellor decided that as no assessment had been fixed for 1879 that of 1878 would have to be the qualification. The rolls being then called, 67 clerical and 58 lay delegates answered to their names. The first order of business was the election of the officers of the Synod for the ensuing year. Archdeacon Parnell, R. V. Rogers, Sr., and R. M. Moor were re-elected Clerical and Lay Secretaries and Treasurer, respectively. The next business, the election of auditors, gave rise to a slight breeze, when Mr. Walkem asked for a committee of Synod to examine into the auditing system and report, and when on motion the rules of order were suspended that the auditors might present their report, and they declared that the accounts were not yet ready for audit. Mr. Walkem defended the Clerical Secretary against the charges which had been made in anonymous letters against his management, and Mr. T. Mucklestone, the Record Auditor, defended the auditors. Rev. Mr. Tighe brought the Clerical Secretary to his feet by declaring that in the purchase and sale of securities the committee was never consulted. Dr. Parnell denied this, and said they were always consulted as to investments and sales. Finally, Dr. Henderson's motion was carried to refer the report and audit question to a special committee of Revs. Forest, Bogert, Crawford, Lewis and Tighe, Messrs. Walkem, Macdonald, Mucklestone, Mathieson and Dr. Wilson. After a committee had been appointed to draft an address to the Governor General and some land petitions had been presented, the unfinished business of last session was resumed. The question of "The Frankford Endowment" came up first. This has been a

bone of contention for several sessions. The original endowment consisted of 200 acres of "Dorchester Glebe" land in the township of Sydney. The Church, however, not claiming the property it had lapsed to the Crown, but subsequently the Commissioner of Crown Lands receiving \$1,000 from the settlers upon it when giving them their patents, handed this sum to the Bishop of the Diocese to apply as he thought fit. The Bishop considering the Church in Frankford in the township of Sydney had a prior claim to it, gave it in trust to the Synod as the "Frankford endowment." This settlement the congregation of Stirling which is partly in Sydney, sought by petition to the Synod to disturb. The matter being referred to a special committee they had reported last session that the request of the Stirling Church people should be granted, to apply the \$1,000 to the erection of a parsonage in the village of Stirling. This report had been referred back to the committee who now in their present report recommended that the interests of said endowment should be divided between Stirling and Frankford. This report with a slight amendment giving the \$180 interest to Rev. F. L. Stevenson, late missionary of Frankford and Stirling, the body of the Synod adopted, but the Bishop declined to concur, and adjourned the Synod till next morning. Upon its re-assembling Wednesday at 10 o'clock a.m., the whole morning was occupied with the balloting for members of the Mission Board and Delegates to the Provincial Synod, which had to be performed twice, owing to an oversight by which the ballots of the last election remained in the boxes. To regain some of the lost time the Synod resumed its sitting an hour earlier than usual, at 2 o'clock p.m., when after the announcement of the results of the ballot the Bishop delivered his charge, which we published last week.

After the address, the Rev. Mr. Forest presented the report of the committee appointed to consider the auditors' report and the manner of keeping the accounts. The first clause of the report explained why the Secretary's accounts were not ready for audit, viz., that as Archdeacon and Bishop's commissary during his Lordship's absence he had too much work apart from his duties as Clerical Secretary. This gave rise to a lively discussion, in which the Secretary was assailed on the one side for neglect of duty and ably defended on the other as having furnished a true and reasonable ground for the indulgence of the Synod. The Secretary stated that in future he would devote himself to the management of the accounts as a first and paramount duty, until he should resign the office, which he desired to do when he had something else to replace it. The Bishop thought the first clause should pass as giving a true reason why the accounts were not ready for audit. The second clause which recommended, upon the resignation of the Clerical Secretary the appointment of a competent layman, led to one of the most heated discussions of the Session. Finally, as the meaning of the committee was not clear and was variously interpreted by the members, the report was referred back to the committee to clear up the obscurities of expression. The Bishop adjourned the Synod till the afternoon, having first severely denounced the anonymous scribblers in the *Evangelical Churchman*, who had produced a feeling of distrust and led to the present controversy which was taking up all the time of the Synod.

Thursday Morning.—The Committee appointed to examine into the manner in which the books and accounts of the Clerical Secretary were kept, brought in a full report which was read and adopted amid general applause. The document is too long for our space, but the comments of the *Daily News* will sufficiently explain its nature. It says: "The reports of the Special Committee asked for by the Clerical Secretary of the Diocese of Ontario, and appointed to investigate his books and accounts presented to the Synod this morning, completely exonerates that gentleman from blame, as those who knew him fully expected. There is no doubt that some things in the published report of the Synod required explanation, which, however, could have been had on application to the Secretary. We congratulate the Ven. Archdeacon Parnell on the complete refutation of the rumours circulated concerning him."

In the afternoon, business opened with the consideration of the latest report of the "Frankford Endowment" Committee, dividing the endowment between Stirling and Frankford. Canon Blaesdell contended that it would be a great injustice and a pernicious breach of trust to appropriate it otherwise than as the Frankford Endowment. The Rev. T. Staunton endorsed these views and pronounced the report faulty and blundering. After amendments had been proposed by Mr. Shea and the Rev. J. Halliwell, the Bishop advised the amendment of the report. Rev. R. T. Stevenson, Messrs. Walker and Kirkpatrick defended the report. A portion of Stirling and Stirling's Church people were in Sydney as well as in Frankford and were entitled to an interest in the Township's glebe. Finally it was agreed to give the interest of the endowment to the clergyman doing duty at Frankford who should also serve Stirling. Until the union neither place should benefit by it. But the Rev. Mr. Stevenson's claim of \$80 should be paid.

Rev. Mr. Forest now presented the report referred back to them in the morning to clear up its meaning. It recommended that a canon should be passed to allow a financial secretary, clerical or lay, to be elected annually by the Synod to keep the accounts, while the clerical secretary's office should be honorary. The financial secretary to be subject to the Executive Committee. The discussion of this clause occupied all the remainder of the afternoon and the evening sessions. There were many speakers on both sides. Canon Jones, Rev. J. Carroll, Mr. D. F. Jones and others urged the appointment of an assistant to the Secretary. Judge Macdonald explained that the lay and clerical secretaries would be still elected by their separate orders, but that both orders would elect the financial secretary, who might be a clergyman or layman. At present the clergy alone elected the manager of the finances of the diocese.

In the evening session the Rev. Mr. Carey opened the debate in a long and able speech. He characterized the report as radical and revolutionary. The Rev. Mr. Spencer moved to defer the consideration of the 2nd clause till next Synod. The Rev. Mr. Low thought the Synod not ripe for a change. Dr. Clarke saw no reason for it. The Bishop said he could not assent to a Canon changing the whole system which had worked well for 18 years, upon such a brief consideration especially as no sound reason had been advanced for it. Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Walkem offered on behalf of the committee to delay the canon till next session if the clause passed. The Bishop thereupon accepted the report and it was finally adopted by about three fifths vote, and upon motion of Judge Macdonald a committee was named to draft a canon carrying out the design of the clause and to report next session.

Friday Morning.—On the introduction of the D. Student Fund report by the Rev. Mr. Baker, it was moved by the Rev. E. P. Crawford, that as none of the amounts of the Committees were closed and audited the financial statements of all the Committees be not adopted but be referred with the Auditors report to a special meeting of the Executive Committee called by the Bishop. Several recommendations and resolutions were made on the unaudited accounts. Some favored leaving their adoption to the Executive Committee while others urged the calling of a special meeting of Synod for the purpose. Rev. Mr. Tighe's amendment for a special meeting being lost, Mr. Crawford's was carried, the Bishop promising that if the Executive Committee recommended a special session he would call it.

The Rev. Mr. Baker having asked a suspension of the rules of order, resolutions of sympathy were passed with the Rev. Dr. Boswell in his illness, and of condolence with the families of the late Rev. Canon Preston and Rev. Mr. Early, and the families of the late Judge Jarvis and Mr. McAnany.

Assessment.—The committee's report adding 50 per cent. to the assessment of 1877 was discussed. Dr. Henderson stated that the assessment fund was \$900 in debt. Some steps should be taken to make the defaulting parishes pay up. Dr. Wilson and Rev. P. Emery advocated the disfranchisement of the clerical as well as the lay representatives. To this several of the clergy objected, as then the assessment would have to come