

Say, Heavenly meetness can we find,
While unattun'd the carnal mind?
Or, how endure an endless song,
To whom an hour in Church seems long?

Our private prayer availeth not
To fit us for our future lot:
'Tis in a city we shall dwell,
And jointly there God's goodness tell.

Your gates, ye priests, then open wide,
Gather the flock, the food provide:
God will your faithful zeal reward,
When *day by day* ye praise the Lord.

And oh, may He, our glorious head,
Send forth that power which lifts the dead;
Revive us, as in ancient days,
To seek His face, and sing His praise.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MONTREAL, C. E., Dec. 14, 1865.

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I hope to send you occasionally some Church news of the Diocese of Canada in general, and of the Diocese of Montreal in particular. Although now somewhat after date, I am desirous that the readers of your magazine throughout a diocese in which I laboured for many years, and in which I shall ever feel a lively interest, should have some account of the last meeting of the Provincial Synod of the Church in Canada, which was both interesting and important with reference to its own objects, and its bearing on the question now agitated as to the present *status* of the Colonial Church and her relation to the Church of the mother country.

The Provincial Synod of the Church in Canada assembled for the third time in the city of Montreal, the Metropolitan See, on Wednesday the 13th of September. The bishops, clergy, and lay delegates of the several dioceses met at the appointed hour in the school-room of the Cathedral buildings, and, forming a procession, marched in order to the Cathedral for divine service, previous to the opening of the Synod. The procession was led by the laity, followed by the clergy, and closed by the bishops. When the procession reached the West entrance of the Cathedral, it was opened to allow the bishops to pass, and all entered in reversed order.

After Morning Prayer, Litany, and Ante-Communion service, a most acceptable and appropriate sermon was preached by the Prolocutor of the lower house, the Rev. James Beaven, D. D., a venerable and respected presbyter of Toronto, who holds the chair of Theology in University College. The text was from Isaiah, "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." At the present juncture of the Church in Canada, and the present position of the whole Colonial Church, it was considered a most aptly-chosen subject, and discreetly and ably treated. The closest attention of the Synod was given to the whole discourse. After the sermon the four bishops, the Metropolitan and the bishops of Huron, Ontario, and Quebec, proceeded to the administration of the Holy Communion. The venerable bishop of Toronto was prevented attending from the infirmities of advanced age, and the illness of his wife, who has since died.

All the members of the Synod partook of the Holy Communion. Divine service was followed by the formal opening of the Synod, which I shall now proceed to describe, giving you such information of the details of debate as are likely to be of interest and importance to the members of the Church in the Diocese of Fredericton. I shall here presume to add some reflections of my own as acquainted with, and interested in, the *status* which the Church holds at the present time in Canada and New Brunswick.

It will be remembered by all who have taken any interest in the onward movement of the Church here, that after the power of

election of our own bishops was granted to Canada, the Diocese of Toronto was subdivided, and Huron and Ontario became separate sees. At the first meeting of the Provincial Synod, all the dioceses were duly and fully represented, and without let or hindrance all worked together for the general good of the Church. When the notorious heretodox judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was given to the Church and the world, which brought out the noble championship of the Bishop of Capetown, Metropolitan of South Africa, and induced the Colonial Church throughout its length and breadth to consider how far it would consent to be ruled by such a judgment, or act upon the independence and self-government rapidly being thrust upon it, the Bishop of Huron was led to suppose that the Provincial Synod of Canada was organized upon an illegal basis, and that consequently all past Acts of the Synod were legally null and void. His lordship was induced by legal advisers to act upon this erroneous supposition, and for a long time, through counsel in Canada and advice at home, strenuous exertions were publicly used to upset an ecclesiastical institution, which had been so happily constituted for the good government of the Church. During all this time, the legal advisers of the Metropolitan, eminent men both in Canada and England, assured Churchmen that the Church in Canada, with its Diocesan and Provincial Synods, was in a better position than any part of the Colonial Church, and on an impregnable legal basis. Owing to these doubts, which had been thrown on the power and standing of the Provincial Synod, it was feared that the Lord Bishop of Huron would feel himself unable to work harmoniously with the other dioceses. Before the Synod was opened by the Metropolitan, the Bishop expressed his desire to join if his mind could be set at rest concerning the legality of the past acts of the Synod. He proposed, therefore, that a resolution should be passed declaring their validity before the Synod was formally opened. Members objected on the ground that they had no power to do anything until the Provincial Synod was properly opened by the Metropolitan taking the chair, and that then to satisfy the convictions of the Bishop of Huron, such a resolution would be unanimously carried. Accordingly the Metropolitan took the chair, the Bishop of Huron withdrew under protest, the bishops proceeded to the upper house, the Prolocutor of the lower house was re-elected, and the roll of clergy and lay delegates called. When the names of the Huron diocese were called, almost every clergyman and layman answered the call, and each name was received with acclamations of welcome by the Synod. The resolution to satisfy the Bishop was passed, and communicated to his lordship, who forthwith took his seat in the upper house, to the healing of any past grievance, and the establishment of thorough harmony and peace and the representation of all the dioceses of the