

PREFACE.

It is not often so small a pamphlet needs any preface, but, in the judgment of the undersigned, this requires one. 1. It was written 41 years ago, and for the last 40 years has been seen by a very few only. 2. It was published anonymously, whilst it is now considered desirable to give the author's name. It is considered desirable also, to show its connection with the establishment of the Diocesan Synods, which, since it was published, have extended themselves over all the different colonies of the British Empire, and have been adopted by the disestablished and disendowed Church of Ireland.

I. The difference in the condition of the Church now and its condition 41 years ago, must be very apparent to any one who reads this unpretending pamphlet, and who looks into the annual reports of the eight organized Dioceses of the ecclesiastical Province of Canada, replete with accounts of church work done, and the contributions of our people to carry on that work.

II. The authorship of the pamphlet is clearly proved by the very full and definite letter of the Rev. C. P. Reid, now Rector of Sherbrooke, Diocese of Quebec, who had been a class-mate of mine in the Divinity School of Chambly, Lower Canada, and has been an intimate friend of mine ever since.

III. The pamphlet was sent in June 1836, to the Lord Bishop of Quebec, my Diocesan, and to every clergyman of the Diocese, then comprising Upper and Lower Canada. In October of the same year, the clergy of Upper Canada were summoned to meet in St. James' Church, Toronto, by the second Bishop Mountain, then administering the Diocese, (under the title of Bishop of Montreal,) to consider the affairs of the Church generally. But the moving spirit in the Conference was Dr. Strachan, then Archdeacon of Toronto. After divine service he ascended the pulpit and delivered a discourse, in which he portrayed in his vigorous style the condition of the Church in this country, what it would be in a few years, and the only measures that he could suggest for their remedy. He followed so closely the little pamphlet that he had received in the previous June, that a life-long friend of mine sitting in the same pew with me remarked at the close of the discourse, "The Archdeacon has taken his ideas from your pamphlet." That old friend is the Rev. Saltern Givins, of Toronto, who has kindly written me a letter on the subject, which, though it does not show so accurate a recollection of the words used by him on the occasion alluded to above, as my more interested memory does, still corroborates my distinct recollection of the very words. The indefatigable Archdeacon having taken up the idea, never rested until he presided as Lord Bishop of Toronto, in 1853, over the first Synod in the Church of England, at least, in modern times.

T. B. NIAGARA.

BISHOP-HURST,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 17th Dec., 1877. }