

Eastern Canada, possess absolutely no authority whatsoever in the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia, or in the Diocese of Kootenay.

Neither do the proposed permissions for combining services, as they will be found in the proposed new book, carry with them the slightest authority unless sanctioned by the Bishop.

My brethren, I have long since wearied you with the abnormal length of this charge.

But it is my primary charge and it is also the primary charge of any Bishop of Kootenay to the Synod of this Diocese. The occasion is abnormal, and the times in which we live are abnormal.

But I have finished. I believe that we are capable of doing a great work for God if only we are true to Him, true to the principles of our historic Church, and full of zeal and love in defending and extending the faith as we have received it.

If long years lie ahead of us, may our foundations today be so well and truly laid that we may see the fruits of our labours, at least in part; and that others who may come after us may see in our work the marks of Divine guidance and Divine approval!

If on the other hand the prayer of the waiting Church is at length on the very eve of being answered, and the Lord Himself be on the very point of coming in like manner as He was seen going into Heaven; then may we be found faithful servants, engaged in His work, diligently improving the talents unto us committed, preachers of righteousness as was Noah, prophets as was Elijah, heralds as was John the Baptist, ever watching, ever praying for the Lord's return, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping!

\*NOTE:—What I have said regarding the Presbyterians was written before the vote taken by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Winnipeg. By that vote union on its part has been accomplished with the Methodist and Congregational Churches. I leave my words, however, to stand just as I wrote them. I do so because I am convinced that there will still remain a Presbyterian Church of Canada, even if it be a numerical<sup>ly</sup> small body. I do so because I am convinced that with this smaller body the chances of understanding will be greater in consequence of the General Assembly's action.