

## READING THE MINUTES.

The Rev. Dr. PATTON moved, and Col. O'BRIEN seconded,

That inasmuch as the Minutes of the last Synod have been printed and circulated among the Clergy and Laity of this Diocese, the reading of the Minutes be dispensed with.—*Carried.*

## ADMISSION TO SEATS IN THE SYNOD.

The Rev. Charles Hamilton, and the Rev. J. Hellmuth, D.D., of the Diocese of Quebec; the Rev. C. C. Brough, A.M., the Rev. St. George Gaulfield, A.B., the Rev. J. W. Marsh, of the Diocese of Huron, and H. Hoffman, of the Diocese of New Jersey, were admitted unanimously to seats in the Synod.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Hon. J. H. CAMERON, having obtained leave, brought up the report of the Prescott Election Committee.

The Committee having heard the statements made for and against the election of John Patton, Esq., as delegate for Prescott, unanimously resolve that John Patton, Esq., has been duly elected.

J. HILLYARD CAMERON,  
Chairman

His Lordship the Bishop then read the following

## ADDRESS

MY REVEREND BRETHREN AND BRETHREN,

I am truly thankful to Almighty God that I am spared to meet you again in Synod, and that I am able to state that the affairs of the Church, since our adjournment in September, have proceeded prosperously; and that we now meet in peace and harmony to deliberate on the unfinished business of the last session, and such other objects of interest as may tend to the glory of our Redeemer, and the extension of His gospel in this portion of His vineyard which has been consigned to us for our more special cultivation.

In our session of June last, the Synod addressed a letter to the Church in India, in which was conveyed an expression of the deep sympathy which we felt in her behalf, and that she had been counted worthy to suffer in the cause of our common Lord and Master—assuring her of our continual remembrance, and of our earnest prayers at the throne of grace for her effectual deliverance, and that her trials of faith might be changed into praise and glory at the appearance of Christ.

This testimony of love and affection has been received in the purest Christian Spirit, as you will all feel, when the letters of the Bishops of Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta are read.

It is impossible to pass from this interesting subject without pausing a moment to look at the vast expansion of our Protestant Missions during the last few years, and the glorious position which our beloved Mother Church has taken and maintained in promoting this invaluable result. Is it not manifest that she has been chosen by Divine Providence, to take a most conspicuous and extensive share in the propagation of the Gospel, and has not God given her far greater means, and more numerous opportunities for advancing her holy mission than any other branch of the Catholic Church ever enjoyed? Her clergy are at this day exercising their authority in every quarter of the globe—labouring in India; they have recently entered China, thus opening two regions for missionary enterprise which are supposed to contain nearly one-half of the population of the whole earth. Hitherto this population has been sitting in superstition, darkness and wickedness, but now light and life have come among them. Can any one believe that our Heavenly Father, who never works in vain, would have brought about so wonderful and mighty a change as to place under the influence

of one of the smallest of the Christian nations, at one extremity of the world, heathen populations at the other, infinitely more numerous, but to manifest His wisdom, His omnipotence and goodness in diffusing amongst their millions the blessings of the Gospel dispensation? Nor is this all. In the vast continent of Australia, and in the numerous islands of the South Sea our Church is scattering her precious seed with a zeal and energy worthy of Apostolic times.

Moreover, in Africa, colonies are being planted where her doctrines, her angelic morality, her rights and discipline are brought in contact with human nature in its lowest degradation, and slowly, but surely raising it to the sublimity of Christian devotion. Nor, I trust, is our beloved Church less alive in America to the discharge of her high and sacred functions than in the other quarters of the world—her progress in the neighbouring States, and in our sister provinces, is daily offering encouraging proofs of her steady advancement. Brilliant as the prospects appear which are opening and widening in the East for our Church's religious enterprise, and calculated, as they certainly seem on the first view, to throw us in the shade, and make us seem as nothing or a very little thing, and rejoiced as we are to behold her exertions in favour of India and China, and the other numerous colonies and vast regions in the East, I have to remind you that our Church in this favoured land, though struggling with many grave difficulties, is rapidly rising to a still higher position than any other branch of our Mother Church, and becoming the portal to a much wider field for missionary operations than even China and India can ever offer. Already the Church of England stretches her arms half across the vast continent of America, from Halifax towards Vancouver's Island. She has planted one of her Bishops at the Red River, midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and in a short time the missionaries of the Bishop of Columbia will meet those of the Bishop of Rupert's Land, with whom we are now in regular Communication. The country from sea to sea will open to emigration an immense field, and continued settlements will gradually follow, churches and towns will rise, so that the younger portion of my audience may yet be able to travel, without serious difficulty, from Quebec to Victoria. But I feel overwhelmed with the vast dimensions of the Missionary expanse which stretches between Canada and the shores of the Pacific and Northern Oceans, and of which she holds the key.

I must, however, proceed to matters of more humble character.

At our adjourned session held at Kingston last September, I was requested by the Synod to issue a pastoral letter, setting forth to the Clergy and Laity the great importance of a Sustentation Fund; but till it should be in some measure realized, it was recommended that a general collection should be made in the several churches and stations of the Diocese on some Sunday towards the close of the year to meet present exigencies and supply immediate wants. In accordance with this expressed desire of the Synod, I published a pastoral letter, bearing date the 15th of November, in which I named Sunday, the 12th of December, being the third Sunday in Advent, for a collection in behalf of the objects stated. The call was very fairly answered, and it has enabled the committee appointed to apportion its proceeds to relieve many severe cases. Such appeals, may, I think, be profitably repeated from time to time. But in the present state of the Church, much more energetic measures must be resorted to before she can extend her limits, or even maintain in comfort the present position.

It has, indeed, always appeared to me, that the scheme adopted in the constitution of our Church Society, for the supply of the wants of the Church

generally, is one of the best if not the very best that has ever been proposed, but it has never, I fear, been honestly and conscientiously worked and carried out. And because of this the Church is suffering.

How mournful is it to examine the published notices of the four annual collections, enjoined by the Society, as they appear in our Secretary's reports. By some of the churchwardens they seem almost systematically ignored. Others select one or two and omit the rest, as if it were not the bounden duty of every clergyman and churchwarden to take them all up in their turn. They are in many parishes and stations scarcely mentioned in the congregations—no remonstrances are made concerning them to the people on account of their coldness and neglect, and yet the most bitter complainers against the Church and her poverty are the very persons who are thus guilty of doing nothing to remedy the evil.

It has sometimes occurred to me that much benefit might be derived from publishing occasionally in the *Canada Ecclesiastical Gazette* lists of the parishes omitting the collections, and the probable loss of revenue sustained by this flagrant breach of duty. I feel, indeed, persuaded that the four annual collections would more than double their present amount were the clergy and churchwardens to act, in this important matter, as before God. I mention the churchwardens on this point advisedly, because instead of taking the lead with their vestries in forwarding such things, they frequently hang back and neutralize the exertions of the clergy. As regards the Sustentation Fund, this may not be the most judicious time for pressing it forward, but we ought to take all the preparatory steps to urge it on at the first seasonable period, which cannot be far distant.

Attempts are now being made to carry out the Canon on the division of parishes in the case of the city of Hamilton, and I am glad to learn that there is a fair prospect of a happy result, and this will generally be the case where a candid and disinterested spirit prevails; but where, on the contrary, an exacting and selfish spirit appears, there is little hope, and in such cases it is commonly wise to adjourn proceedings until it has abated.

The rights and privileges of the Mother Church should in all cases be tenderly respected and frankly allowed, because, in general, the original parish is called upon to make sacrifices, and, at times, large ones, hence the propriety that those who solicit them should proceed not only generously but with the greatest delicacy.

Perhaps the canon itself may be so amended as to make it more practical, but be this as it may, the frank recognition of a just and equitable basis is an essential preliminary step to be adopted by all the parties interested. If this be satisfactorily accomplished, there will be little or no difficulty in completing the division. It will nevertheless be seen that the whole process requires much caution and tender handling to ensure an amicable conclusion.

Many difficulties have hitherto stood in the way of the regular and prompt administration of the discipline of the Church. We have been compelled to depend, in a great measure, upon moral influence, an untiring forbearance, and such remonstrances as might awaken conscience or excite the fear of public exposure. Moreover, great doubts were, till lately, entertained as to how far the judicial system of the Mother Church might be applicable to the Church in the Colonies. These doubts, however, are now removed by recent acts of the Provincial Legislature and the Imperial Government, which confers upon the Church in the Colonies the power of self government in all things honest and lawful, I therefore trust a canon will be passed during the present