

bear in mind that the Bishop of Quebec, having officially intimated to you to-day that he would not accept the office, the real choice then left to you was reduced to one, the Bishop of Ontario, in your own Province.

Your committee, therefore, have much to deplore that you had almost no measure of selection in determining your choice; but your committee deplores still more that the House of Bishops should have left the Church in this Diocese, and in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada without a head, by adjourning until the month of May.

Your committee is distinctly of opinion that the canon gives to the House of Bishops no power to adjourn as they have done, but are by it compelled to continue nominations until they should give you the name of a clergyman who, in your consciences and before God, you considered it would be your duty to set over the Church in this Diocese. The House of Bishops, by their adjournment, have, consequently, so far departed from the true spirit and intention of the canon for the election of a Bishop and Metropolitan, as to have virtually abdicated the functions it was their bounden duty to exercise.

That they have by so doing left also the property of the Church, which is vested in the Bishop as a corporation sole, entirely without a protector.

That your committee have therefore to recommend that steps should be taken during next session of the legislature, to secure such legislation as will vest the senior dignitary of the Church next in rank to Bishop, until a Bishop for this Diocese be duly elected and consecrated with all the powers conferred upon the Bishop by the constitution and the various statutes affecting the temporalities of the Church.

That your committee finally recommend that the present powers of the Synod should not be suffered to lapse, and to that end that it should adjourn until some convenient day in the month of May next.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

WILLIAM T. LEACH,  
(Chairman.)

12th November, 1868.