

OPINION OF THE CHANCELLOR ON THE EFFECT OF THE  
ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

MONTREAL, 5th March, 1868.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

The following communications are submitted for the information of the Clergy:

The Amalgamation Bill, submitted to the Legislature of Quebec, by the Church Society of the Diocese of Montreal, and the Diocesan Synod, having become law, the Church Society has ceased to exist, and is now effectually merged in the Diocesan Synod.

The Synod, by the mere passing of the Act, has become vested with all the property of the Church Society, and entitled and bound to exercise all its powers and privileges, and to carry out all the trusts which the Society was bound to fulfil.

The Synod is now a Corporation, and its present Constitution, Canons, Rules, and Regulations are to continue in force until duly amended or repealed.

As the Synod is provided, under its Constitution, with Secretaries, a Treasurer, and a Registrar, it would seem that no practical difficulty can arise in carrying on the ordinary business heretofore managed by the Church Society, and specially so by its Secretary and Treasurer, until the Synod can lawfully meet and pass Regulations for the more efficient management of its affairs under the new organization.

Under the Constitution, the Synod cannot be lawfully summoned together earlier than the third Tuesday in June, except by the Bishop. The commissary has power to preside at meetings of the Synod, in the absence of the Bishop, but has no authority to summon the Synod to meet. Nothing, therefore, but business of an ordinary kind, such as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Church Society were in the habit of attending to, without special authority, can be done, until the needed regulations shall be in force. As I said before, however, I presume no practical difficulty will be encountered under such a state of things.

Montreal, 29th February, 1868.

STRACHAN BETHUNE, *Chancellor*,