

towns all the Church of England people were the gentry, and that the body of the people belonged to other creeds. Let the principle, however, be adopted, and leave the matter to the bishops and for the consideration of the next Synod, in order to provide a remedy for the great need now existing in this respect.

Rev. Dr. NICHOL—Was not opposed to lay agency in its proper place at all, and would sanction such in a case where it was impossible to employ any other. He bowed to the authority of the church which prescribed the orders of "bishops, priests and deacons." Now, when they had employed all those orders and wanted further assistance, let lay agency be called in, but let them not appoint any other human agency till every means prescribed by the church had failed. He was in favour of lowering the attainments of candidates for the diaconate and admitting them at 21 years of age. He believed that the church should also exact from her ministers a knowledge of Hebrew. He believed no man could rightly dispense the Word of God without a knowledge of this language. Let their young deacons come forward, if desirous to, qualify themselves for the office of Priest, and let the church give every facility for doing so. If the diaconate is of Divine institution the church cannot and will not be without the order. (Hear, hear.) He advocated the rendering of the diaconate qualifications, &c., as efficient as possible, and the promotion of deacons in a proper manner.

The Rev. PROLOCUTOR here stated that he had received the following message from the

UPPER HOUSE.

"The Upper House have considered the resolution of the Lower House respecting 'discrepancies in the manner of performing divine service in the province,' and in order that the bishops may be better informed, as to what are the discrepancies to which the resolution more particularly refers, as now existing, and to most effectually, as far as may be possible, endeavour to provide a remedy, the Upper House desire to have a conference with members of the Lower House, as the Lower House may think proper to select for that purpose.

(Signed) "F. MONTREAL."

Moved by Rev. Dr. FULLER, seconded by Dr. BOVELL,—That the committee of conference with the Upper House of this Provincial Synod on "Discrepancies in the manner of performing Divine Service" do consist of the Very Rev. the Dean of Montreal, Archdeacon Brough, Rev. M. Mulock, and the mover. Carried.

DEBATE RESUMED.

Rev. Mr. FLOOD said it appeared to him there was a great deal of difficulty in selecting deacons in accordance with apostolic usages—men full of the Holy Ghost, and recommended by their brethren. It was never designed, he believed, to keep deacons always in the same position. If they were qualified for a higher office, let them be advanced to the priesthood. He extolled the employment of competent lay agency, when such was procurable. This agency could be made very useful in publishing God's message to the people. Lay agency had done much already, and might strengthen very much the hands of the church. The qualifications of deacons should be such as to render them efficient labourers for the church.

Archdeacon BERNHANS moved the adjournment of the debate, as the subject was of such importance as not to be disposed of by a hasty decision, and that the consideration of the Report on the Diaconate be placed first on the orders. Lost on a division.

The PROLOCUTOR decided, however, that the debate must be adjourned in order to allow the mover the right to reply.

The proceedings were terminated by the Prolocutor pronouncing the benediction.

FOURTH DAY.

The Lower House of Synod met at ten o'clock this morning. The meeting having been opened with prayer by the Rev. the Prolocutor, Rev. Canon Bancroft, Clerical Secretary, read the minutes of the previous day's Synod, which, on receiving a few slight corrections, were approved.

SUCCESSION TO THE METROPOLITAN SEE.

Hon. Justice McCORD read the following report:—

The committee to whom was referred the subject of the succession to the Metropolitan see, beg to report the following canon, which they have adopted, to the Synod.

Canon for the election of a Metropolitan.

1st. The election to the office of Metropolitan, whenever the Metropolitan see shall be vacant, shall be vested in the House of bishops.

2nd. The see of the bishop, so elected Metropolitan, shall be the Metropolitan see, until the office of Metropolitan shall become vacant.

3rd. On any vacancy occurring in the office of Metropolitan, the diocesan see, so vacant, being fresh filled, the senior bishops in Canada shall within thirty days after such Diocesan see is filled, give notice to the other bishops of the Province that they shall proceed to the election of a Metropolitan, and each election shall take place at the seat of the Diocese, in which the vacancy of the office of Metropolitan has just occurred, and shall be determined by the votes of the majority of the bishops present at such an election.

4th. Such election of Metropolitan shall not be had, unless a majority of all the bishops of the dioceses in Canada concur in the election.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. McCORD,
Chairman.

Committee room, 12th Sept, 1862.

Hon. Justice McCORD then moved, seconded by Rev. Mr. SLACK, "that the rules be suspended, and that the consideration of the report on the succession to the Metropolitan be taken up immediately after the discussion on the report on the diaconate."—Carried.

The report of the auditors on the treasurer's report was handed in, in which the auditors stated they had examined the latter report and found it correct.—Adopted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

A number of notices of motion were then submitted.

THE DIACONATE.

Rev. Mr. SLACK desired permission to alter the amendment, moved by him the previous day, to make it read as follows: "Resolved that this meeting approving the general principle embodied in this report, desires to refer it back to the committee, enlarged by the addition of ten members, with the view to its revision and amendment."

Rev. Mr. PALMER thought the amendment would commit the House to the principle.

The PROLOCUTOR did not consider it would have that effect. That would be decided by the vote of the House after the amended amendment had been introduced.

Several members requested Rev. Mr. SLACK to

withdraw his amended amendment, and allow the former to stand before the House.

Rev. Mr. SLACK withdrew his latter amendment, and the debate proceeded upon the other and the motion to adopt the report.

Archdeacon BERNHANS considered the House very much indebted to the gentlemen who had drawn up the report. It had been said that in carrying out the intentions of the framers of the report, they should experience extreme difficulty in procuring the men to fill up the diaconate as it was proposed. He did not believe they should be driven to the necessity of appointing unqualified persons to the office. Were there not men in the community like St. Paul, of qualifications, who, earning their bread with their hands, would devote themselves to the service of the church. Were there not doctors and other members of the learned professions in their ranks, men of attainments and piety, who would labour for the promotion of the cause of Christ? The value of lay agency had been freely admitted. He honoured those who had drawn the distinction between the services of lay and clerical agencies, both of which were distinct in themselves, but almost equally valuable and necessary in their place. It was the peculiar and intimate relations of the pastor with his people—his ministrations by their bedside, and other services of a like nature which endeared him to the affections of his people. But could pastors minister personally to the wants of several hundred people. To supply this want lay agency was needed. This agency would create a bond of sympathy and affection between the clergy and the laity, and give an increased influence to both orders, and render the church more strong and useful. He hoped such action would be taken in this matter as would satisfy the yearnings of the church, add to her influence, and be an honour to both clergy and people. (Hear, hear.)

Rev. Mr. PALMER thought the laity of Canada would not be content with lay ministrations. He only hoped that such would be used in cases of necessity. The speaker referred to the able exertions of a lay agent, who had in 18 months gathered a congregation, to which the bishop had sent a clergyman. He was in favour of using the influence of the laity to the utmost extent in the work of the church.

Dr. BOVELL urged the necessity of establishing a diaconate which would be a valuable aid to the clergy in carrying on the work of the church. They could imagine the deplorable circumstances of the congregation referred to by the last speaker, living without the services of religion for the long period of eighteen months—without the sacrament to either the living or the dying. This alone was an argument in favour of the diaconate, which could not be got over. They would be bound in self-defence to maintain their position before the world, to defend the truth against the assaults of her enemies, to have a ministry of higher qualifications, and a higher qualified order of deacons.

Rev. Mr. FULLER said this was a subject in which he had always felt a great interest. He had had opportunities of judging of the wants of the church, in the city and also in the country, and no clergyman in the country, fifty miles from any other minister, could perform the duties of a deacon. When he went out to one of those districts he did the best he could to supply the want of a deacon; and he frequently eat his dinner on horseback. But still the people went over to other churches that could supply their wants. He felt that it was their duty as a church, when they could not send every where a highly educated priest, to give the people one who could break to them the bread of life. It had been said that it