

On the 24th of Sept., 1851, the Bishops of Quebec, Toronto, Newfoundland, Fredericton, and Montreal, met at Quebec, and commenced the first formal movement towards obtaining Synodical government for the Church of England in British North America. The Dioceses of Huron and Ontario had not then been erected, so that, excepting Nova Scotia, all the Dioceses of British America were represented. The Bishops then placed on record their decision that "it was necessary that a Metropolitan should be appointed for the North American Dioceses."

In 1857 and 1858 the Synod Acts were passed in Provincial Parliament, and in June, 1859, the first Diocesan Synod of Montreal met. One of its acts (as was also the case in the Dioceses of Toronto and Quebec) was to petition the Queen "to cause such measures to be taken as may be necessary in order to appoint one of the Bishops in this Province to be a Metropolitan." The Diocese of Huron, which had in the meantime been erected, did not join the other Dioceses in thus petitioning the Crown.

The Queen acceded to the prayer of these petitions, and issued "letters patent" appointing our late Bishop and his successors in the See of Montreal Metropolitans of the ecclesiastical Province of Canada. By virtue of this patent he presided (in Sept. 1861) at the first Provincial Synod.

In June of 1861 the third Diocesan Synod of Montreal met, and the Bishop's announcement of his appointment as Metropolitan was received with applause. He, however, stated in his address that the other Dioceses were not satisfied that the election of Metropolitan should permanently reside in the Synod of Montreal, as provided by the patent, and that it would be advisable for the Diocese of Montreal to meet the views of the other Dioceses in some way, because there were errors in the patent which would necessitate the drawing up of a new one, and, unless some such concession were made, the new patent