

Under the Provincial Synod Act, the Bishops, Clergy and Laity were authorized to meet by representation from their respective Dioceses in General Assembly, and to frame a constitution and regulations for the general management and good government of the Church in Canada; and such constitution and regulations would thereupon become binding and obligatory upon all the members of the Church.

This act is merely permissive. It is not upon compulsion, but by the voluntary combination of all the Dioceses, that the Assembly is to be formed and the Act to become operative.

At the time of the issue of the Letters Patent, therefore, the Diocese was free to dissent from or assent to any proposal for the creation of a Synod; it was not bound to obey any notice convoking a Synod, and none of its members were subject to the coercive or other jurisdiction of any one outside of the Diocese.

The Letters Patent which under these circumstances issued, after reciting the presentation by other Dioceses of petitions for the appointment of a Metropolitan, "that so the necessary powers might be vested in him for holding and presiding over the General Assembly," appointed the Lord Bishop of Montreal Metropolitan, and directed that the Bishops of all the other Sees should be suffragan Bishops to the Metropolitan; and they purported to will and declare that it should be lawful for the Metropolitan, at his discretion, to hold and preside over the General Assembly and General Assemblies; they purported to give the Metropolitan jurisdiction over the Bishops and all persons in orders in the several Dioceses; they purported to give the Metropolitan powers of visiting the said Bishops and persons, for correcting and supplying the defects of the said Bishops and persons, with all and all manner of visitatorial jurisdiction, power and coercion; they purported to empower the Metropolitan to inhibit during visitation the exercise of the jurisdiction of the said Bishops, and by himself or his commissaries to exercise such powers, functions and jurisdictions as the Bishops might have exercised if not inhibited; they purported to give to any person aggrieved by any procedure of any of the said

Bishop
the
appea
which
shoul
and t

Th
and a
powe
or G

Ye
Bish
Colo

rigi

T
pow
hol
ine

U
you
and
rel
one
De

cro
wi

dis
to
wo
of
co

er