

Surely, the prayers of the whole Church should unite in imploring the Divine guidance in such a choice. Surely time should be given for every member of our Church throughout the Diocese to join in such petitions. Would not the very possibility of so hasty a choice be a serious danger? Is it right that such a sword of Damocles should hang over us? Would it be fair to Clergymen or Lay delegates who might be absent, under circumstances which they felt would justify them, so far as the ordinary business of the Synod was concerned; but who, if at death's door, would drag themselves thither, were notice given that a question so important as that of the election of their future Bishop, was to arise?

I shrink, my Lord, from the responsibility which the publication of the present letter entails; but in the short time given us, I know not how otherwise to place before your Lordship and the Clergy and Lay delegates, in time for serious consideration, the views I have expressed.

The Bishop of a Diocese must under any circumstances exercise a great and commanding influence. His addresses are always in order in the Synod. His high office secures to him the greatest deference and respect. But by the constitution of our Synod, Clergy and Laity have their just rights also, and as we value, so the more jealously should we guard them. Forgive me then, my Lord, if as one of your Lordship's faithful Laity, I speak plainly. When the question arose as to the Bishop's negative vote, or veto, I asserted that right for your Lordship and your successors, as I now claim equal privilege of nomination and freedom of choice of their future Bishop for the Clergy and Lay Delegates in Synod assembled.

Perhaps it is right also that I should state that, although I gave notice in July, 1878, that I should this year move the consideration of the important and much needed codification of the Church Acts, published in the Synod Journal, and my notice stands as the first business for the present year, I shall at once cheerfully yield precedence to the consideration of the proposed Canon, if, as coming from your Lordship, it is to be pressed. Yet, unless arguments can be advanced so powerfully as to materially change my present views, I cannot but respectfully oppose its adoption, believing that such a Canon, if adopted and followed, under our present circumstances, as it might be, by a nomination and choice, would impair our just rights, lessen the harmony

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