

the present time is premature for so great and serious a change. The fact that both the Dioceses of Toronto and Huron are at present somewhat financially embarrassed, and therefore could not bear any division of their funds, that the times are phenomenal for stringency and contraction, and that the whole question of the future of Algoma has as yet not been discussed upon the floor of the Provincial Synod, constitute grave and important reasons why we should hasten slowly before committing ourselves to so grave and important a measure. Should, however, all these considerations bulk but little compared with the supposed urgency of the case, I would humbly submit that it is to the north, and to the north alone, we should look as the place through which the line of delimitation should be drawn. The counties of Bruce and Grey, from their very position, seem to present the only area which we could well surrender as our contribution toward the formation of a new diocese. A diocese comprising the large districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka, together with the counties of Simcoe, Dufferin, Grey and Bruce, would be sufficiently large to occupy all the energies and time of any man, however vigorous, who might be appointed as its bishop." The Synod of Huron passed a motion as to the conference resolutions thus: "That the recommendations of the conference of the representatives of Toronto, Huron, Niagara and Algoma Dioceses, as to the territorial arrangements deemed most expedient to create a new diocese in Western Ontario, have their consideration suspended until the question of the future of Algoma is dealt with by the Provincial Synod, as in the proposed re-arrangement the territory of Algoma is left intact, while the House of Bishops in 1892 expressed the opinion that the Missionary Diocese of Algoma should be subdivided at the earliest possible date, and further, that our future obligations to Algoma and our own financial position make it inexpedient to enter into the consideration of such a radical change as is proposed until the first has been defined, and the second improved, and that the committee be continued." The financial position of Huron is suffering a transient depression. Diocesan contributions have not fallen off, while the total offerings for all Church purposes, parochial and diocesan, are on the increase all the time, but the invested funds of the Diocese, employed to supplement clerical incomes, according to length of service, and amount got from the parishes, have been subjected to two reductions, whereby the income available for helping clerical stipends has been lessened. The general rate of interest all over the country has been lowered, and the superannuation charge in Huron has always been first charge on the funds. The number of superannuated men having been increased in recent years, and the scale for payment of clergy having been originally fixed at too high a point for the average resources, has caused a temporary deficit to take place. The position, however, is being readjusted; it will take a year or two to work into a permanent system, but it is very evident that under the circumstances no measure of heroic division is possible, and the wisdom of the bishop's utterances must be apparent to all. The Synod of Huron resolution was transmitted to the Provincial Synod, so that discussions there on the extension of the Episcopate, and the Algoma question, would be qualified by this clearly expressed resolution. The Algoma position was not actually changed, a further leave of absence was given to the bishop, in the hope

that restoration to health and working ability might ensue, and necessary provision was made for him in the event of his being compelled to resign. Therefore, the financial position of Algoma, and the suggestion of the Upper House as to its division, were not considered. Algoma, through its triennial council, petitioned the Provincial Synod to have a Synod of its own, and its prayer was granted subject to approval of the constitution proposed by the Provincial Synod, as Algoma is a Missionary Diocese, and so long as the present relation exists, Provincial Synod supervision is necessary. It was felt in the discussions on the extension of the Episcopate last year, that in addition to the Upper House suggestion that Algoma be divided, an expression from the working force of the Church, lay and clerical, in Algoma itself, as to this change, should be had. We now come to the positive action taken by the Provincial Synod as to extension of the Episcopate at its last session. In this matter the Synod was unanimous, and the fervour of the discussions showed the intense appreciation of the members of this move onward to the highest interests of the Church. The resolution of the Lower House was to the effect, "That it recognizes the necessity for the establishment of a new diocese in the western part of the Province of Ontario, to be constituted out of existing dioceses as may be agreed upon by them, and a diocese in the eastern part of Nova Scotia, with such boundaries as may be settled by the diocese of that province, and that this House do appoint a committee to promote these objects," etc. The Upper House concurred. We shall be very glad indeed to receive any information as to how the work is progressing in Nova Scotia. We have striven to make this paper the paper for all Canadian Churchmen, and we would rejoice to know that our brethren in the East are at work in the furtherance of this supremely important matter, and would be very glad to report their progress to the Church. We necessarily can talk more freely and fully about the proposed new diocese in Western Ontario. The Provincial Synod committee for the west on this matter will doubtless be convened soon, but what will they do when they meet? Niagara can not contribute any territory. Toronto so far is only spoken of to contribute one county. Huron, so far as the direction of its expression goes, is willing only to contribute Bruce and Grey. Can any scheme be got into shape for next Provincial Synod that will leave out a territorial contribution from Algoma? As it seems to us, from all the official utterances, the only plan capable of fairly speedy realization is that of the diocese round the Georgian Bay. If the bishops in 1892 suggested division of Algoma, a contribution from its territory in 1896 should be practicable. Algoma would still be a vast diocese. A good deal of financial adjustment may require to be made, but before any steps could be taken to raise the endowment for the new diocese, it would require to be known where it is to be. The progress Algoma has made the last twenty years shows what might be expected in the future, and as the establishment of a new diocese affords the Church an opportunity of arranging for future administration and requirements, we think such a contribution of Algoma territory as is spoken of would be in the best interests of the future working of Algoma proper. We are anxious to see progress made, and it can only be made in the direction where all parties can be harmonized. This proposition under consideration would not upset the financial systems of

either Huron or Toronto, while the contribution of territory from each, with that from Algoma, would make a good field for any bishop, and relieve all the three dioceses as well. But we are open for communications on the matter. We have endeavoured to place the facts of the movement, and the action of the various official bodies of the Church in regard thereto, fairly before our readers, and now that the Provincial Synod committee will likely be convened soon, and to prepare the minds of our people for discussion in their various Diocesan Synods, we have dealt with the matter as we have. By the time the next Provincial Synod meets the new diocese in Western Ontario ought to be ready for setting off.

"THE CANADIAN CHURCHMAN" CATHEDRAL FUND.

The Cathedral of St. Alban's, Toronto, is in dire financial straits. The scheme was generally approved of and endorsed by the Synod of Toronto as a noble one, when it was started many years ago, and so much has been done that a handsome chancel has been finished, and is used as a parish church as well as the nucleus of the future cathedral. But the promised subscriptions have failed to come in, and it seems as if all that has been expended would be lost to the church by the apathy of the people. The honour of all of us is bound up in this matter, and the sweeping away of this land and building would mean everlasting shame to the Diocese of Toronto. The Bishop has appealed without avail; the conscience of the people has not been impressed. A subscription equal to one dollar from each communicant would relieve the Bishop from this anxiety, but the clergy cannot be aware of this, or they would have taken action long ago. We now appeal earnestly to all. Send us what you can, and the funds received will be duly acknowledged and handed over. Stir up your clergy, your friends and neighbours, and see that their contributions are forwarded. Organize and act. Cheques and P.O. orders to be made payable to Frank Wootten, Toronto.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

Previously acknowledged.....	\$235 00
Communicant, St. Luke's, Toronto	1 00
From a subscriber.....	1 00
Mrs. Jackson, Cardwell	1 00
Mrs. Austin, City.....	1 00

THE BISHOP'S APPROVAL.

MY DEAR MR. WOOTTEN,—I have read in yesterday's issue of your paper your announcement of a CANADIAN CHURCHMAN Cathedral Fund, and write to thank you very warmly for this spontaneous and unsolicited enterprise on your part to come to the assistance of St. Alban's Cathedral in its great emergency. Your earnest appeal affords me much encouragement as a proof of loyalty and a true Churchman's interest in this anxious Diocesan undertaking.

Its completion and support would impose no heavy tax upon any one if our Church people generally, throughout the Diocese, would unite in making small contributions; and I cannot but believe that if the matter were brought before them and the opportunity given, they would gladly do this to secure to our Diocese the crown of our Church of England system—a noble Cathedral—the centre and source of the spiritual activities and unifying forces of the Church; the worthy spiritual home of all her children, the pride and glory of our ancient and historic communions.

Earnestly hoping that you will receive such a