

CHARGE

OF THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL TO
THE SYNOD OF MONTREAL, 9th FEBRUARY, 1909.

REVEREND BRETHREN AND BRETHREN OF THE LAITY:--

As I address you for the first time as your Bishop in this Synod, varied emotions struggle for expression.

First of all would I express my deep and, I trust, humble thanks, to our Heavenly Father for having entrusted to me so great a work in His Church; and to you, my brethren, for your confidence in electing me as your Bishop. You have given me a great opportunity of service, and have placed upon me a grave responsibility. I tremble sometimes when I think of the responsibilities and possibilities of my office. Pray earnestly for me, my brothers, not only in the public services of the Church, but also in your private devotions, that I may have grace so to guide and govern the Church in this large and important Diocese, that she may be extended and strengthened and her people built up in their Holy Faith. May the Church never suffer loss through me!

But when I think upon the cordial, I may truthfully say the enthusiastic greeting and welcome which we have received from every quarter of the Diocese since the day of our arrival in the city, I am filled with hope for the work which lies before the Church. For I am sure I begin that work having the confidence of the Diocese at large, and can feel that I have behind me a united and loyal people, who are anxious to co-operate in every measure for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom upon earth.

FORMER BISHOPS.

In my work I have to build upon foundations which have been firmly and wisely laid, by the great men who have preceded me in this office. Bishops Fulford and Oxenden were before my time. The Church owes a great deal to them and especially to the wise statesmanship of Bishop Fulford, who laboured for so many years to establish the Church here, at a time when the work was accompanied by hardships of which we know nothing. We must never forget the debt we owe to those upon whose labours we have entered. It has been my privilege to know my two immediate predecessors.