

ed from asking for relief, either from the Government or the Church, the Church has paid the whole debt incurred by me, amounting to £2,500."

**FIRST SYNOD OF COLOMBO.**—Notwithstanding some opposition, synodical action has been successfully set on foot in one of the most important portions of the Anglo-Indian Church. On the 20th September last, after Divine Service in the Cathedral, the first Diocesan Synod of Colombo was convened in that city by Bishop Claughton. The constitution then agreed upon presents the usual features, though perhaps we should notice that, as to Clergymen of the Order of Deacons, it permits them to attend and take part in the proceedings, but not to vote. On the "Status of Synod" three resolutions were adopted:

"(1.) That this Synod, lawfully summoned by the Bishop of the diocese, claims to be by representation the Church of the diocese of Colombo, in union and full communion with the United Church of England and Ireland, and identical with the said Church in faith and doctrine, and acknowledges the supremacy of the Sovereign and the authority of any Synod of this Province, lawfully summoned, in which this Synod shall have been duly represented.

"(2.) That nothing in the acts of this Synod, or in the terms therein used, shall be held to assume the powers or functions of legislating with any coercive jurisdiction, but merely as purporting to lay down rules, which will bind those who expressly or by implication assent thereto.

"(3.) That this Synod disclaims any attempt to pass rules contrary to law, or to create tribunals similar to those which, in countries where there is an Established Church, receive a legal and coercive jurisdiction."

The "Declaration of Principles" passed by the Synod, in accordance with the recommendation of the Bishop, is identical with that of the Diocesan Synod of Capetown, in 1857 (and which will be found that year in our pages), with but one exception. While the Capetown form acknowledged the authority of the canons and constitutions of the Home Church, "in so far as the existing circumstances of the Church in this diocese permit, without prejudice to such local regulations as the Synod of this diocese may hereafter lawfully make," the Declaration of Colombo introduces a more express recognition of the special bond of the provincial system, by saying instead of the last clause, "until they shall have been altered by the Synod of this Province," lawfully convened, in the which this diocese shall have been duly represented." The Synod desires this Declaration to be henceforward subscribed by all clergy to be ordained in the diocese, by all who, from England or elsewhere, shall by the Colonial Secretary or by any other persons, be nominated to any ecclesiastical office in Ceylon, and also by future bishops of the diocese before their enthronement.—*Colonial Church Chronicle*.

**WE** reprint the following letter, lately issued by the Lord Bishop of the diocese, feeling sure that it will receive from the members of the Church that respectful consideration which it deserves, both on account of the subject of which it treats, and the source from which it comes:—

*To the Clergy and Church Wardens of the Church of England in the Diocese of Frederickton.*

DEAR BRETHREN,—At my last Visitation of the clergy of this diocese it was proposed by the Rev. S. D. L. Street, and seconded by the Rev. Canon Gray, and unanimously resolved

—That whereas it has been stated by his Lordship the Bishop in his late Charge to the clergy, that the clergy and laity should express an opinion as to whether it is desirable to have the organization of a Synod in this diocese, therefore

*Resolved*,—"That his Lordship be requested to call a meeting of the clergy and lay delegates of the Church to take into consideration the question whether it be desirable to have a Synod or not, and if so, under what particular organization."

Acting upon this resolution, I request that on or about Easter Monday next, you will summon a meeting of members of our Church in your respective parishes for the purpose of appointing two lay delegates, being communicants in our Church, to consider the question of the desirableness of Synodical action in this diocese, and to come to a resolution on this subject at a meeting to be held in St. John in July next, during the session of the members of our Church Society.

Some years since, the majority of our Vestries were of opinion, that Synodical action was not desirable in this diocese. Since that time, however, circumstances have taken place which may possibly modify, or alter the opinion of many.

It is undeniable, that Diocesan Synods have been formed, and are now in action, in the great majority of Colonial Dioceses, and that we stand nearly alone in not exercising these powers, and are thereby deprived of union with our brethren in that respect, and it is equally plain, that some of the powers supposed to be conferred on Colonial Bishops by the Letters Patent, have been pronounced void by a late decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. We are therefore placed in the character of a voluntary association, without those rules and regulations for our guidance which other religious bodies, similarly circumstanced, have thought it wise, and desirable to make.

The great distances at which many of the clergy and laity live from any central point, seem to supply a reason both for and against a Synod.

On the one part, it may be alleged, that few are able to spare the time, or to incur the expense necessary for assembling at regular intervals.

On the other, it may be said, that our extreme isolation is most disadvantageous to our communion, leading each clergyman and each parish to consider themselves as so many separate units, rather than members of a corporate fellowship, bound by common rules, enjoying common privileges, feeling a wide sympathy, and deriving general benefit from a common bond of union.

Whether Synodical action would promote this desirable end, would draw us all more together, and recognizing differences of opinion, would abate the bitterness of party spirit, it is for you to decide. The question is so grave and serious, and involves so many interests, that we shall act very foolishly, and very discreditably, if we do not endeavour to form a clear, decided, and dispassionate judgment on the matter; and it is my earnest prayer that the Fountain of all wisdom may enable us so to act, as not to bring discredit on the Church, or incur His displeasure.

I remain, dear brethren,

Your faithful friend and servant in Christ,

JOHN FREDERICKSON.

P. S.—I request that a certified list may be sent to me of the names of the delegates chosen, either through the Deans Rural or separately, as you may judge best, and that if no delegates be chosen in any parish, I may be informed of the fact. Due notice will be given of the place and time of meeting in July.