

first appeared in the *Montreal Gazette*. The occasion of this letter was a circular from the Secretary of the Synod, giving notice of Mr. Bethune's motion in full, by which it was evident that it would be in the power of a party to bring up the whole subject and initiate it for legislative action. The notice will be found at page 14, and will explain itself. Mr. Bethune, on the second day of Synod, rose to address the House on the subject. I am not aware whether his remarks were reported, but, after some personal allusions to myself, he went on to say that he had no motion to propose, and, with the permission of the Synod, desired to withdraw the notice. So far it was well. But he also said that he had not been unwilling to ascertain whether the sense of the Synod was favourable to his motion; and, therefore, it is no unfair inference that, if he had found such to be the case, he would have proceeded with it. There could be no doubt that a majority of the clergy were strongly against it, and that it could have no chance of passing. Hence it was, in every way, the most prudent course to withdraw it. It was a great relief to the Synod, for although there could be no chance of its passing, yet there was the certainty that, had it been pressed, it would have awakened all the bitter feelings so painfully manifested during the late proceedings. It was desirable they should not be again called into action, nor the dignity of a deliberative assembly of the Church, I will not say imperilled, but simply destroyed, by their exhibition. Another Lay member of the Synod—Hon. L. S. Huntington—immediately rose to express his regret that the motion had been withdrawn, and stated that, had he known of the intention to do so, he himself would have been prepared to move one to the same effect. This may be taken to foreshadow future action. It will be well to be "forewarned and forearmed," for assuredly what is contemplated is nothing less than an ecclesiastical revolution, in the sense of bringing our Church into conformity with American ideas.

I desire distinctly to state that I am far from charging either