

which, as well from the difficulties of travelling as from their actual extent, were practically insurmountable;—of the day when the whole of this vast Dominion, so far as it was known and explored, was under the spiritual guidance of a single Bishop with his handful of clergy sprinkled here and there over its wide extent, with no opportunities for fellow-counselling, with but little for fellow-sympathy save in the necessarily infrequent visitations of their Bishop. All honour then to those noble missionaries who thus in almost exile, in certain solitariness, first planted the precious seeds of the church's teaching and system in our country. And I mention their lot only to bring into stronger contrast our own more favoured position. With sub-divided and smaller dioceses, with the wonderfully increased opportunities, which these last fifty years have brought, of personal and epistolary communication, we have further what our fathers must have often longed for in vain, those occasions for meeting together, for taking counsel, for gaining and imparting sympathy, which so strengthen the wearied worker and supply such renewed interest and effort in his holy labour.

But something more is yearned for which these very gatherings, I refer to our Synod and Church Society meetings, fail to supply, although they aid in suggesting its possibility. These latter, mainly confined to the discussion of the temporal and pecuniary needs of the church, naturally fail to meet the higher spiritual longings and strivings which should ever manifest themselves to the earnest and zealous minister, and which are in a way the truest index of the reality and success of his ministrations. To afford opportunity for the satisfying of these, something less secular, if I may use the word, something more spiritual than the Synod or Church Society meeting, is desired. They call for some-