

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

SEPTEMBER, 1867.



ERE we disposed to be critical we might suggest that a less motley compound than that of "Pan-Anglican" would have been in better taste as a designation for that meeting of Anglican Bishops which is shortly to convene at Lambeth, under the auspices of the

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY. Some of our readers, perhaps, need to be told that this Meeting (it is a misnomer to call it Synod) is to be convened at the suggestion of the Right Reverend the Metropolitan Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Canada in connection with the United Church of England and Ireland.* It is to consist of as many of the Bishops of England and Ireland as may be willing or able to come together; of the Colonial Bishops (the Right Rev. Dr. Colenso, Bishop of Natal, excepted), all of whom will, without doubt, be ready to put in an appearance at Lambeth, if they are able; as many of the Bishops of the Episcopal Church in the United States as can be spared from their dioceses; and the Bishops of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, who will be glad, doubtless, to be placed for once on a par with their titled and better-paid brethren of England and Ireland. If all come who

shall be asked, for there is no *summons* to attend this Synod or Council of Bishops, twelve times twelve will assemble together. It is safe to predict that one hundred will be the outside number that will present themselves at the Archbishop's Palace at Lambeth on the appointed day of meeting. We concede that there will be congregated on that occasion a large amount of piety, of learning, of talent, and of sense, and that no such meeting can take place without resulting in good to the individuals composing it. Iron will sharpen iron, thought will quicken thought, sense will awaken sense; and mutual prayer will bring down from heaven upon the assembled Pastors the blessings, may we not hope, of harmony and love. What will be the result of this conclave of Bishops upon the Church Catholic we are unable to divine, but we are willing to wait that we may see it.

It is of moment to bear in mind that this meeting of Bishops will have no authority over the churches or dioceses which shall be therein represented. Those recommendations and decisions at which it may unanimously arrive will doubtless have their due influence upon the Anglican community. They will deserve the respectful consideration of every member of the Protestant Episcopal communion, whether he be Briton or American. But what can we hope for of unanimity in a meeting in which will be maintained views so contradictory as those which are severally held, for example, by the Bishop of Salisbury and the Bishop of Ohio? Will the ritualists and consubstantiationists of the Salisbury type be drawn towards men of such low and loose churchmanship as Dr. McIlvaine and the Bishop of Durham? Will those who are quite ready to plunge into union with the Greek Church, if not with the Church of Rome, listen to the appeals which will be made by others for Catholic unity in the direction of Lutheranism?

* *A Pan-Anglican Synod.* A Sermon preached in the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford, on Sunday, Dec. 23, 1866, by Francis Fulford, D.D., Lord Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan of Canada. With an Appendix. Published at the request of the Lord Bishop of Oxford, and the Clergy then ordained.