

"Try to forget, my Reverend Brethren, any little specialities, either of doctrine or practice, which have in days past ranged you on separate sides; and think only of the greatness of those matters on which you are sent here to deliberate, and of His honour which should be dearer to you than all else. Look at each question which shall come before you, not as to how it will affect yourselves, but how it will affect the Church at large."

These words of wisdom are taken from the inaugural address of Bishop Oxenden at the first meeting of the Diocesan Synod after his arrival in Canada. Men who heard them began almost to hope that some real advantage might have been gained by the compromise which made the Rector of Pluckley, Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan of Canada. Two years experience since has allowed us to compare the Bishop's practice with the lesson he thus preached.

Shortly after his arrival an attempt was made by a portion of the Cathedral Congregation to get rid of the Senior Canon of the Cathedral and one of its Assistant Ministers. Some of the more respectable members of this party tried to excuse their conduct on the pretext that the Cathedral funds could not support the expense of the two clergymen then employed; but every one knew that this was not the real reason, and that party spirit was at the bottom of the whole intrigue. A difficulty however stood in the way of this cabal. By the terms of his engagement the Revd. Canon Loosmore could not be got rid of, if he could not be induced to resign, without the concurrence of the Bishop. This concurrence, the Dean endeavoured to obtain. Instead of adopting the straight forward and manly course of at once refusing it, as he knew he ought, the Bishop did his utmost to induce Mr. Loosmore to condemn himself and to resign. It is impossible to believe that in giving this advice the Bishop considered Mr. Loosmore's interest; but he was perfectly ready to sacrifice Mr. Loosmore's character in order to avoid the necessity of either stultifying himself, or of coming into conflict with the wrong-doers who were attempting to persecute Mr. Loosmore. Forced at last to speak he timidly decided in favour of Mr. Loosmore.

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