

REMARKS

ON

DIOCESAN SYNODS.

THE following remarks on Diocesan Synods, have been written at the request of several members of the Church, who have suggested the propriety of issuing a paper, to be placed in the hands of persons wishing for information upon this subject. I now publish them, with the hope that, by God's blessing, they may be instrumental in dispelling any prejudices and misconceptions that may anywhere exist, and in strengthening the confidence of my brethren, who have rightly appreciated the benefits to be derived from this Institution.

If we would trace Ecclesiastical Synods to their source, we must go back to the Council at Jerusalem, when "the Apostles and Elders came together to consider of," and to determine, a controversy, and published their decree, in the name of "the Apostles, and Elders, and Brethren." In the so-called Apostolical Canons, the Bishops are required to meet in Synod twice every year, "to determine all doctrines of religion, among themselves, and put an end to all ecclesiastical controversies that may happen." This Canon is confirmed by the first general Council, and by others subsequently held.

Besides the Synods above mentioned, there were from the earliest times, assemblies of the Bishop and Clergy of each Diocese. Van Espen, a well-known authority, says, "In the first ages of the Church, the Bishops were