

The Canon for the election of a Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan has been so much discussed of late, that it seems advisable to compile a short account of it, in order that delegates, who may have recently been elected, can understand how the present law arose, how thoroughly it was debated, how deliberately it was adopted, and what difficulties may stand in the way of its repeal.

It requires some time and attention to trace this Canon through the Church records. Many of the reports, both of the Provincial and Diocesan Synods, are out of print and very scarce. The various stages of the discussion spread over the whole period of Colonial Church legislation, and very few of the delegates have had access to a complete set of reports. It is therefore most important that all the materials for a calm and candid consideration of this question should be placed, in a convenient form, before every delegate, in order to avoid the scandal of infringing, in the sudden heat of an election, a Canon which is the product of the cumulative wisdom of the best minds of the Church, adopted deliberately after a discussion extending over ten years, and now so interwoven with the constitutions of both Synods, that no hasty alteration can be made without a violent and revolutionary shock to our whole ecclesiastical fabric.