

THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS.

DEAR BRETHREN OF THE CLERGY AND LAITY,—We are, through the ill-health of Mr. Brick and the impossibility, through distance and the requirements of their own mission, on the part of others of our fellow-workers, few in number, almost too few to constitute a Synod. Yet, on account of the special conditions and peculiar exigencies under which the work of the Church has to be carried on in a country so remote as this from the conveniences of more favored districts, and poor in the most ordinary facilities of travelling, I feel that such an assembly cannot, and ought not to, be judged from any other standpoint than that of its necessity and the actual possibility of holding it. As an integral part of the Province of Rupert's Land, called upon to bear our part in seeking to solve problems on whose right solution, under God, the future work and extended usefulness of the Church so much depends, even apart from the consideration of putting our own battle in array, and seeking that our work should be on the most effectual lines, it is necessary for us to meet in Synod. So far we have been able, though always few in number, to meet every third year.

I would now once more rejoice with you that we are permitted, in the good providence of God, to meet together for mutual counsel and encouragement. Life has been no changeless, uneventful thing either for ourselves or for the world around us since we met here last in 1891.

I would touch upon one momentous change, a change which must increasingly affect our beloved Church in Canada, viz., her consolidation effected by the action of the General Synod that met in Toronto last September. While seeking neither to change the doctrine or discipline of our Church as in full communion with the Church of England, while leaving untouched the Diocesan and Provincial systems under which we have so far prospered, the main purpose in consolidation is to gather the Church together in mutual council, mutual help, mutual encouragement, to remove the sense of isolation, to enable each part to realize that it is one of a great whole. "Like a mighty army moves the Church of God."

Again, it will enable our Church to speak with unity, and so with increased influence, on great public questions that gravely affect the moral and religious well-being of that large and increasing Dominion in which, in God's good providence, she is placed.