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No. 258.

2nd Session, 5th Parliament, 19 Victoria, 1856.

BILL.

An Act to enable the Members of the United
Church of England and Ireland in Canada
to meet in Synod.

Received and read, first time, Monday, 5th
May, 1856.

Second reading, Thursday, 8th May, 1856.

HON. MR. CAMERON.

TORONTO:
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YONGE STREET.

An Act to enable the Members of the United Church of
England and Ireland in Canada to meet in Synod.

WHEREAS doubts exist whether the members of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Province have the power of regulating the affairs of their Church, in matters relating to discipline, and necessary to order and good government, and it is just that such doubts should be removed, in order that they may be permitted to exercise the same rights of self-government that are enjoyed by other religious communities: Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:

Preamble.

I. The Bishop, Clergy and Laity, members of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Province, may meet in their several Dioceses, which are now, or may be hereafter constituted in this Province, and in such manner and by such proceedings as they shall adopt, frame constitutions and make regulations for enforcing discipline in the Church, for the appointment, deposition, deprivation, or removal of any person bearing office therein, of whatever order or degree, and for the convenient and orderly management of the property, affairs and interest of the Church in matters relating to and affecting only the said Church, and the officers and members thereof, and not in any manner interfering with the rights, privileges or interests of other religious communities, or of any person or persons not being a member or members of the said United Church of England and Ireland; Provided always, that such constitutions and regulations shall apply only to the Diocese or Dioceses adopting the same.

Power to meet in the several Dioceses and make regulations for the discipline of the Church therein.

Proviso.

II. The Bishops, Clergy and Laity, members of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Province, may meet in general Assembly with- in this Province, by such Representatives as shall be determined and declared by them in their several Dioceses; and in such general assembly frame a Constitution and regulations for the general management and good government of the said Church in this Province; Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall authorise the imposition of any rate or tax upon any person or persons whomsoever, whether belonging to the said Church or not, or the infliction of any punishment, fine or penalty upon any person, other than his suspension or removal from an office in the said Church, or exclusion from the meetings or proceedings of the Diocesan or General Synods; And provided also, that nothing in the said constitutions or regulations, or any of them, shall be contrary to any law or statute now or hereafter in force in this Province.

General Assembly of the Members of the Church throughout this Province.

Proviso: no tax or fine to be levied.

Proviso.