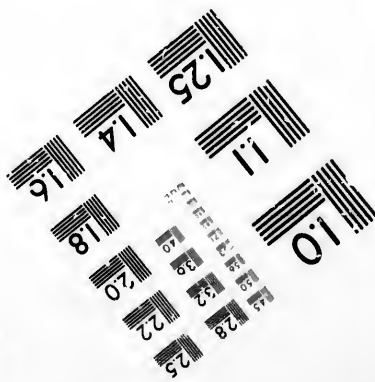
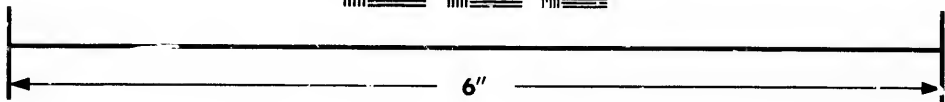
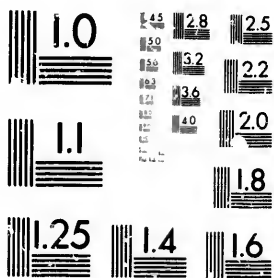


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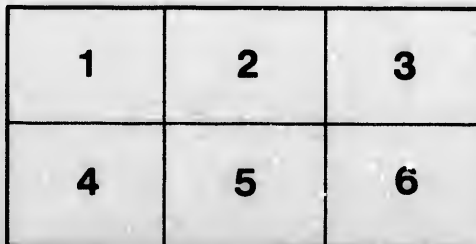
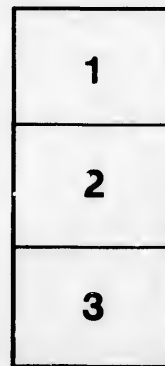
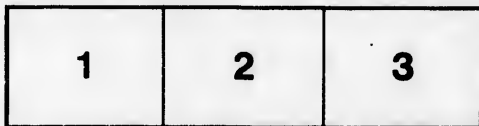
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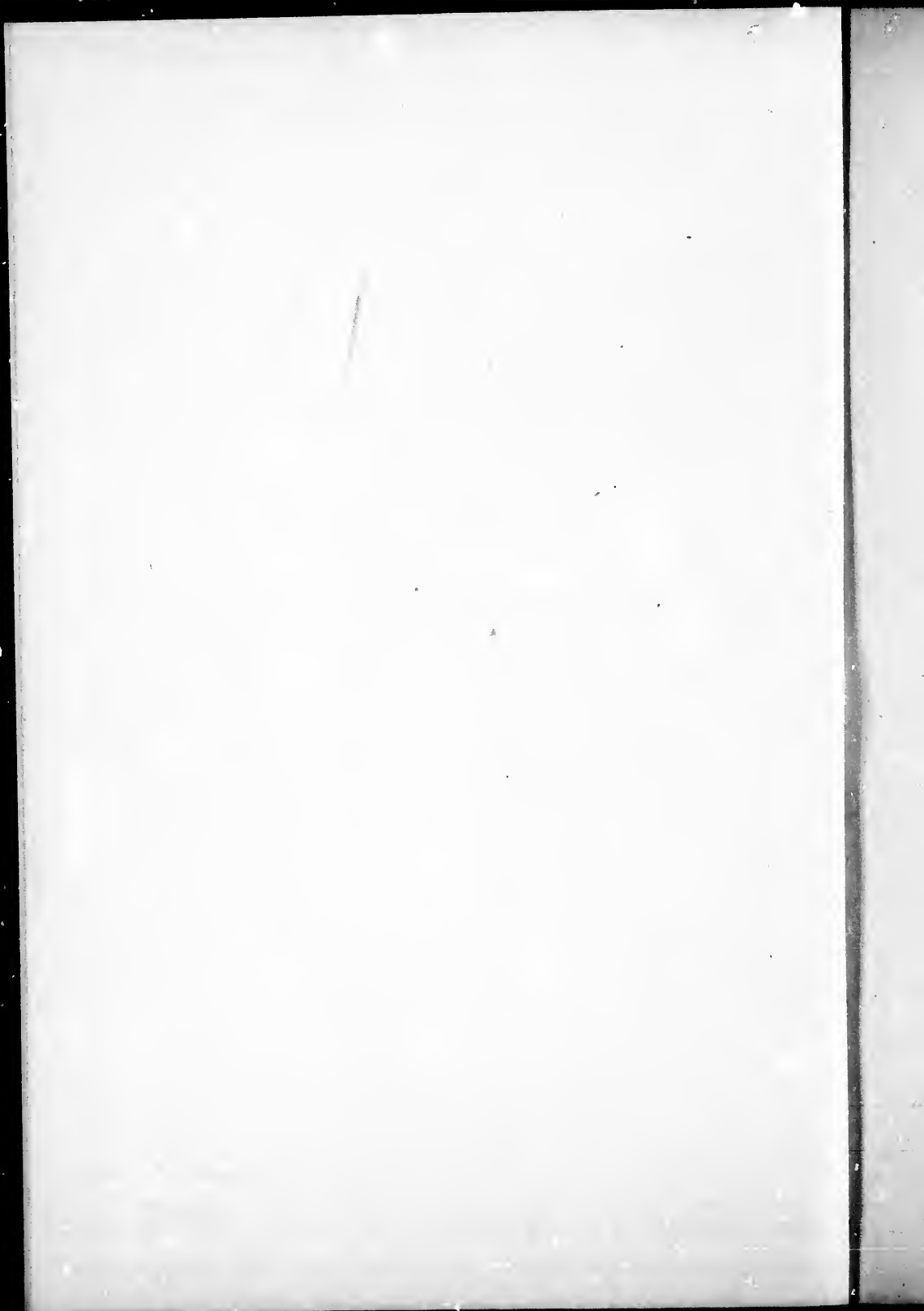
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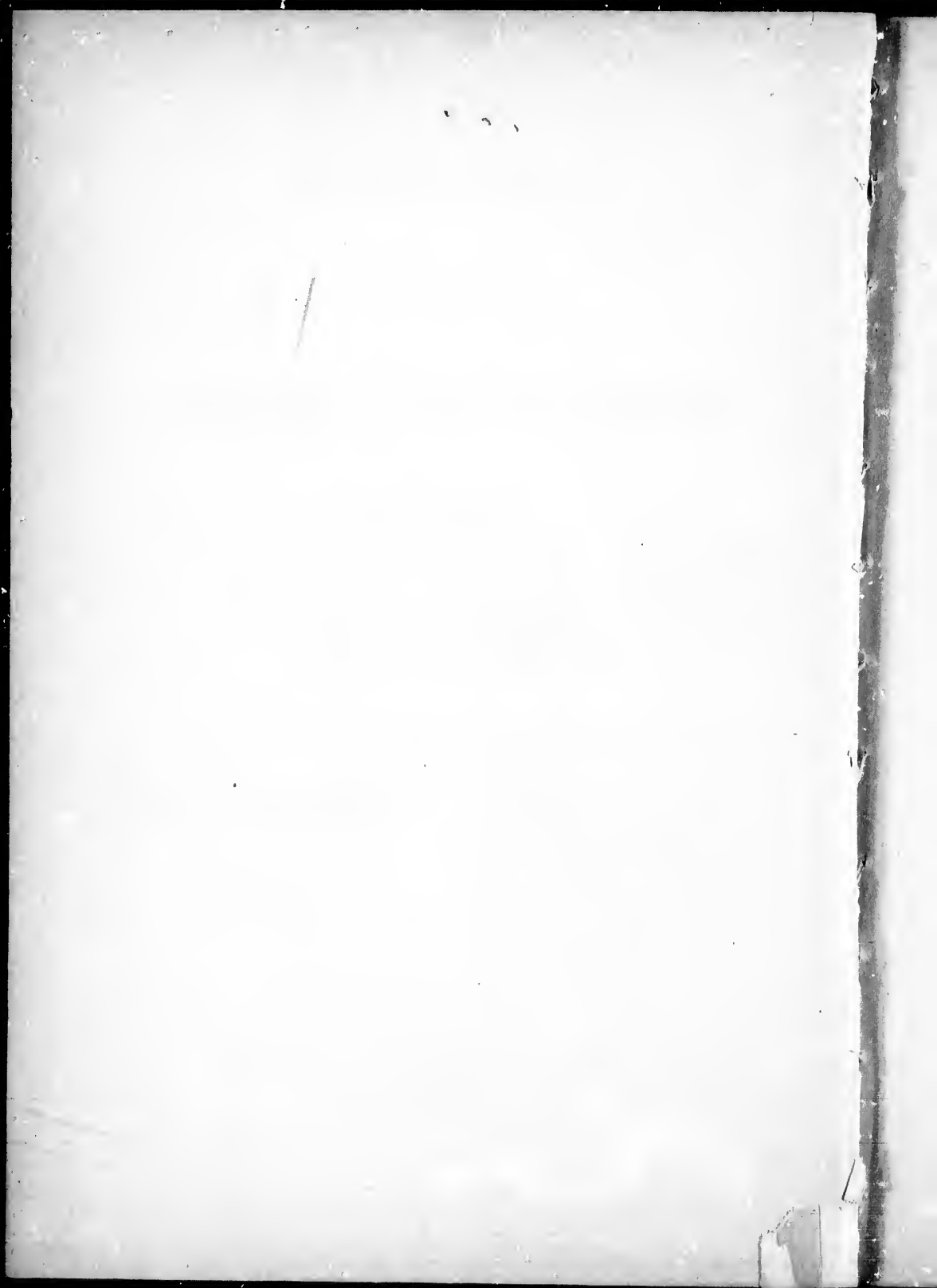


A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE
CANON
FOR THE
ELECTION OF A BISHOP
OF
MONTREAL
AND
Metropolitan of Canada.

By A LAY DELEGATE.

S. E. Dawson.

MONTREAL:
PRINTED BY THE MONTREAL PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1869.



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.

On the 24th of Sept., 1851, the Bishops of Quebec, Toronto, Newfoundland, Fredericton, and Montreal, met at Quebec, and commenced the first formal movement towards obtaining Synodical government for the Church of England in British North America. The Dioceses of Huron and Ontario had not then been erected, so that, excepting Nova Scotia, all the Dioceses of British America were represented. The Bishops then placed on record their decision that "it was necessary that a Metropolitan should be appointed for the North American Dioceses."

In 1857 and 1858 the Synod Acts were passed in Provincial Parliament, and in June, 1859, the first Diocesan Synod of Montreal met. One of its acts (as was also the case in the Dioceses of Toronto and Quebec) was to petition the Queen "to cause such measures to be taken as may be necessary in order to appoint one of the Bishops in this Province to be a Metropolitan." The Diocese of Huron, which had in the meantime been erected, did not join the other Dioceses in thus petitioning the Crown.

The Queen acceded to the prayer of these petitions, and issued "letters patent" appointing our late Bishop and his successors in the See of Montreal Metropolitans of the ecclesiastical Province of Canada. By virtue of this patent he presided (in Sept. 1861) at the first Provincial Synod.

In June of 1861 the third Diocesan Synod of Montreal met, and the Bishop's announcement of his appointment as Metropolitan was received with applause. He, however, stated in his address that the other Dioceses were not satisfied that the election of Metropolitan should permanently reside in the Synod of Montreal, as provided by the patent, and that it would be advisable for the Diocese of Montreal to meet the views of the other Dioceses in some way, because there were errors in the patent which would necessitate the drawing up of a new one, and, unless some such concession were made, the new patent

would probably be drawn up personally to himself. The following memorandum from the Bishop of Huron was then read :—

MEMORANDUM FROM THE LORD BISHOP OF HURON.

The Synod of the Diocese of Huron did not join with the other Dioceses in Canada, in petitioning the Queen to appoint a Metropolitan, and the reasons which influenced them were communicated to His Excellency the Governor General, before the petitions from the other Dioceses were forwarded to England.

As the appointment has now been made, and the Diocese of Huron has, without its concurrence been placed under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Montreal, as the Metropolitan of Canada, the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Huron, beg most respectfully to state, that in their opinion, the measure as it now stands, is likely to be productive of much dissatisfaction, and may have the effect of preventing the cordial co-operation of the Diocese of Huron in the measures adopted by the Provincial Synod.

Under the Synod law, each Diocese has now the power to elect its own Bishop, and whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Diocese of Montreal, the Clergy and Laity of that Diocese will exercise that power, and as Montreal is appointed the Metropolitan See, the Bishop thus elected will *ipso facto*, be the Metropolitan of Canada. Thus the election of the Metropolitan for the Church of England in Canada, will actually be placed in the Diocese of Montreal. Such a measure is manifestly most unjust towards the other Dioceses.

By the Synod law, the power is conferred upon the Church in Canada, to make regulations "for the appointment, deposition, deprivation, or removal of any person bearing office therein, of whatever order or degree, any rights of the crown to the contrary, notwithstanding." Should the present measure remain as it is, and the Bishop of Montreal, elected by the Synod of that Diocese, be the Metropolitan, this power would be forever taken from the Church, so far as the appointment of the Metropolitan is concerned.

The Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of the Diocese of Huron would therefore suggest, that if Montreal is to be the Metropolitan See for ever, the Bishop of that Diocese whenever a vacancy occurs shall be elected *by the Provincial Synod*. But should the Diocese of Montreal, decline to relinquish the right to elect their own Bishop, conferred upon them by the Synod law, then the Metropolitan shall be chosen by the Provincial Synod, from amongst the Bishops of the United Church of England and Ireland, in Canada, and the Diocese of Montreal shall elect its own Bishop in the same manner as the

other Dioceses of Canada. The effect of this might be to change the Metropolitan See on each new election.

The adoption of either of the above suggestions is necessary, for should the privilege of appointing the Metropolitan be taken from the Church, the members of the Church in the Diocese of Huron, will feel that they have been unjustly treated by being deprived of a right conferred upon them by an Act of Parliament, without any reference to their opinion or wishes on the subject. They thankfully receive the appointment of the present Metropolitan, and they have no objection to Montreal as the Metropolitan See, but they think that if Montreal has the high honor conferred upon it of being the first See in Canada, justice towards the Church at large requires that the Bishop of that See, who is to preside over all the Bishops in Canada, should be chosen by the Synod of the entire Church.

BENJ. HURON.

This memorandum was referred to a committee which reported to the effect, that the Diocese was not willing to relinquish its right of electing its own Bishop; that the power of appointing a Metropolitan being indisputably vested in the Crown, no opinion could be expressed as to the delegation of that power to the Provincial Synod; and finally, that in the selection of Montreal no injustice had been done to the other Dioceses.

The organization of the Church in Canada being then complete, the first Provincial Synod was held at Montreal in September, 1861. An address of thanks was passed to Her Majesty for having complied with the memorials of the Diocesan Synods, praying for the appointment of a Metropolitan. The patent, however, as before stated, contained errors in the preamble which compelled its being drawn up anew, and a draft of a new patent, which had been sent out by the law officers of the Crown, was submitted to that Synod for debate and criticism.

A committee was thereupon appointed to examine and report upon the draft of the proposed new patent. It reported as follows:—

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The Committee on the Constitution, and Patent of the Metropolitan beg leave to present this their second report.

The Committee met on Wednesday evening in the Chapter House

of the Cathedral. Present:—the Very Reverend the Dean of Montreal in the Chair; the Rev. Drs. Beaven, Patton, Fuller, Caulfield and Lauder; the Rev. Canon Leach; Revs. Marsh and Roe; Messrs. the Hon. J. H. Cameron, Kirkpatrick, Carter, Shade, Lawrason, Scott, Gamble and Irvine.—16.

The question of the Patent of the Metropolitan, occupied the time and attention of the Committee, and their deliberations finally resulted in the adoption of the two following resolutions:—

1. The Committee, after considering the Letters Patent, issued to the Metropolitan, are of opinion that no legal impediment existed to the issue of the Letters Patent by the Queen for the appointment of a Metropolitan.

2. The Committee also consider, that there are various alterations which may be properly made in the Patent, so as to accord with the provisions of the Synod Act, some of which they hope to submit in another report.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN BETHUNE,
Chairman.

On motion of the Dean of Montreal, the amended draft of the proposed letters patent was afterwards carried as a third report from the same Committee. It was then moved by Hon. J. H. Cameron, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Patton, and carried:

That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, praying Her Majesty to command that the alterations, resolved and decreed by this House, in the Letters Patent, appointing a Metropolitan, be made in the new Letters Patent, to be issued to the Metropolitan.

The chief alterations were, that the “succession to the Metropolitan See shall be subject to such rules, regulations, and canons as shall and may be made in respect thereof by the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity in their General Assemblies” under the Synod Act; the powers of the Metropolitan were also placed under the same control. The object of these alterations was to take away from the Diocese of Montreal the honour conferred by the Crown, and this being clearly seen, the late Bishop Mountain of Quebec entered the following protest:—

PROTEST OF THE LORD BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

Reasons against those portions of the printed draft for the amendment of the Letters Patent, (Report of the Committee No. 3.)

of which the object is to leave open a power of transferring the Metropolitcal jurisdiction to other Sees within the Province.

1. Because the office of Metropolitan, according to the ancient and universally received usage of the Church and the invariable practice of the United Church of England and Ireland, at home and abroad, (there being now five Metropolitan Sees in the Colonial dependencies of the Empire), is attached permanently to a particular See.

2. Because it is most highly inexpedient and undesirable to introduce into any branch of the Colonial Church any such marked deviation from ancient ecclesiastical and Anglican usage, as would be involved in substituting for the office of Metropolitan, properly understood, a sort of ambulatory jurisdiction which would shift about from See to See.

3. Because the very title of Metropolitan imports the designation of a particular city, as the permanent seat of the jurisdiction attaching to that office; and the change now intended to be provided for would thus involve a contradiction in terms.

4. Because the endeavour to modify the Letters Patent in the manner proposed, would, in the event of its being successful, nullify the professed objects of the petitions for the creation of such an office, and virtually set aside the whole of the proceedings had in the case.

5. Because the appointment of Metropolitan having been made by Her Majesty, in compliance with petitions to that effect, proceeding from three of the Caradian Dioceses, it would be a plain inconsistency on the part of the Petitioners to seek so to alter the provisions of the Letters Patent, that there might by consequence be, *in effect*, no Metropolitan See, and therefore no true Metropolitan.

6. Because the petitions for such appointment, evidently implied and brought under the consideration of the Crown an appointment of the same nature with those previously made in other parts of the Empire.

7. Because the only objection of any apparent weight, against the provisions of the Letters Patent in this behalf, being the seemingly undue preponderance of privilege assigned to the Diocese of Montreal, in electing the Metropolitan by the act of electing its own Bishops, that objection may be obviated by the transfer of such election (presuming the Diocese of Montreal to agree to the same) to the hands of the Provincial Synod, or by other methods which that Synod, in its wisdom, may devise.

8. Because the city of Montreal is central in point of local situation, and is, of all the cities in the Province, the most populous, the most considerable, the most prosperous, and the most increasing.

(Signed,)

G. J. QUEBEC.

Her Majesty acceded to the prayer of the Provincial Synod, and an amended patent was issued. The limitation or extension of the powers of the Metropolitan, and the succession of the Metropolitan See, were by it placed under the control of the Provincial Synod. The amended patent is published with the report of the Second Provincial Synod, which was summoned in Sept., 1862, for the purpose of considering it. A Committee was then appointed "to take into consideration the succession to the "Metropolitan See," for the claims of Montreal were still generally recognised. It reported as follows:—

"The Committee to whom was referred the subject of the succession to the Metropolitan See, beg leave to report the following Canon, which they have adopted, to the Synod:—

1. The election to the office of Metropolitan, whenever the Metropolitan See shall become vacant, shall be vested in the House of Bishops.

2. The See of the Bishop so elected Metropolitan, shall be the Metropolitan See, until the office of Metropolitan shall become vacant.

3. On any vacancy occurring in the office of Metropolitan, the Diocesan See, so vacant, being first filled, the senior Bishop in Canada shall within thirty days after such Diocesan See is filled, give notice to the other Bishops of the Province, that they shall proceed to the election of a Metropolitan, and such election shall take place at the seat of the Diocese, in which the vacancy of the office of Metropolitan has just occurred, and shall be determined by the votes of the majority of the Bishops present at such election.

4. Such election of Metropolitan shall not be had, unless a majority of all the Bishops of the Dioceses in Canada, concur in the election.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. McCORD,
Chairman.

A long and animated debate followed this report. It was, upon the motion of the Hon. Judge McCord, seconded by the Hon. J. H. Cameron, *received and considered clause by clause*. Amendments were offered and withdrawn which do not seem to be recorded, and as this debate has a most important bearing on

the present election, a full extract is herewith given from the report:—

Amendment by Edward Carter, Esq., seconded by Rev. Provost Whittaker:—

That, the Report of the Committee, relating to the succession to the Metropolitan See, be not adopted; but that a Committee be appointed to report what measures should be devised, upon a vacancy, in the Bishopric of Montreal occurring, so as to secure to the Church at large in this Province, a voice in the selection of a successor, without depriving the Diocese of Montreal of its privileges to elect, the Committee to report without delay.—Lost.

Amendment by Rev. A. Palmer, seconded by Rev. W. Bond:

That, this House most respectfully represent to the House of Bishops that this House is unable to concur in a "Canon for the election of a Metropolitan," reported to this House by a Committee, inasmuch as this House considers it to be most for the interest of the Church that the office of Metropolitan should in accordance with the ancient usage of the Church, and the practice of the Church at home and abroad, be attached to a particular See.—Lost.

Amendment by Rev. H. Holland, seconded by Rev. Dr. Lauder:—

That on a vacancy occurring in the Metropolitan See, the senior Bishop shall summon a meeting of the other Bishops, at the same time and place as those at which the Synod of Montreal meets to hold its election;

That the House of Bishops shall propose to the Diocesan Synod, names for election;

That, on the rejection of these names, two more shall be proposed, and so on until the election be arrived at;

That, provided the Diocese of Montreal, elect as the Bishop of that See, any one of the names so proposed by the House of Bishops, he shall be nominated to Her Majesty the Queen for confirmation as Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan, and his Patent shall issue accordingly. But if the Diocese of Montreal shall not elect as their Bishop, one of the names so proposed, then, the clergyman so elected shall be nominated to Her Majesty for confirmation as Bishop of Montreal only, and the election to the office of Metropolitan shall be vested in the House of Bishops.—Lost.

Amendment moved by Rev. J. A. Mulock; seconded by Rev. E. Duvernet:—That, on the Metropolitan See of Montreal becoming vacant, the Synod of Montreal be requested to fill the vacancy, by electing their Bishop from any of the Colonial Bishops.

Amendment by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Hemming:—That, the report of the Committee be not now adopted, but that a Committee

be appointed to prepare a petition to the Provincial Parliament, praying it to declare Montreal to be the Metropolitan See, and to grant to the Synod, the exclusive right of regulating the succession to that See, and to prepare a short bill to that effect, and to invite the co-operation of the Diocesan Synod of Montreal, in taking the requisite measures to secure its passage.—Lost.

Amendment by Rev. M. M. Fothergill; seconded by Mr. Scott:—That, the report of the Committee be not accepted, but that it be resolved that this Synod do determine that the Metropolitan See shall be fixed in the city of Montreal.—Lost.

Moved by Rev. H. Roe; seconded by the Rev. W. Bleasdel:—That, it is the sense of this House, that the Metropolitan See ought to be fixed to one city, and that the decision of Her Majesty the Queen, in selecting Montreal as the Metropolitan See, ought, if possible to be maintained; that therefore a Committee be appointed to devise some measure, in consultation with the Diocesan Synod of Montreal, for the solution of the difficulties in the way of the election of a Metropolitan, and to report to the next meeting of this Provincial Synod; and that, (until such arrangement shall be agreed upon and adopted by this Synod as shall do justice to the claims of the Diocese of Montreal, as well as to those of the other Dioceses of the Province,) the election of the Metropolitan be vested provisionally in the House of Bishops. Carried on the following division:—

Clergy,—Yeas,—Revs. C. Hamilton, H. Roe, Dr. Nicholls, G. Woolryche, R. Burrage, M. Fothergill, Dr. Beaven, W. S. Darling, E. H. Dewar, S. Givins, H. Holland, A. Palmer, Provost Whittaker, Dean Bethune, E. Duvernet, W. Boad, Canon Bancroft, W. Anderson, G. Slack, J. C. Davidson, J. A. Mulock, Archdeacon Lauder, W. Bleasdel, J. G. Armstrong,—24. Laity, Yeas,—Messrs. Scott, Hemming, Morris, Major Campbell, Wood, Dr. Bovell, Hon. G. Moffatt, Taylor, Carter, Kains, Steele,—11; total 35.

Nays—Clergy,—Revs. C. P. Reid, A. Balfour, Archdeacon Bethune, Dr. Fuller, J. G. Geddes, T. Kennedy, Dr. Shortt, Archdeacon Brough, Dr. Boomer, E. Ellwood, J. W. Marsh, Dr. Sandys, J. Smythe, J. C. Usher, E. Sullivan, J. S. Lauder,—16. Laity, Nays—Messrs. Thompson, Hon. J. H. Cameron, C. Campbell, Harman, Roe, Dawes, Simpson,—7; total 23.

The clause between brackets, in the resolution which was carried, was inserted by the House of Bishops. The Committee of Conference with the Diocesan Synod consisted of the Dean of Montreal, Mr. Carter, the Archdeacon of Ontario, Mr. Steele, Rev. Provost Whittaker, Mr. Campbell, Archdeacon Brough,

Mr. Lawrason, Rev. Mr. Roe, Mr. Irvine, and the House of Bishops added the names of the Bishops of Huron and Ontario.

In June of the following year (1863) the fifth Synod of this Diocese met. The Committee appointed, as before stated, by the Provincial Synod, met in Montreal at the same time, so as to confer with the Diocesan Synod, which appointed a Committee to meet them and settle the Metropolitan succession on an equitable basis. It will be observed that the Provincial Synod was now, by the amended patent, master of the situation. The matter came up in the following manner :—

The Dean of Montreal then read the following Report :

The Committee of this Synod appointed to confer with the Committee of the Provincial Synod upon the question of the succession to the office of Metropolitan, beg respectfully to report that they have attended a meeting of that Committee, at which the subject received mature consideration, when the following resolution was agreed to :—

Whereas, Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint the City of Montreal to be the Metropolitan See of the Province of Canada, and the Bishop of Montreal to be the Metropolitan of the said Province; and whereas, it has been generally considered inexpedient that the Metropolitan should be elected by the Diocesan Synod of Montreal alone; and whereas, it has been decided by the Provincial Synod "that the Metropolitan See ought to be fixed in one city, and that the decision of Her Majesty the Queen in selecting Montreal as the Metropolitan See ought if possible to be maintained; and whereas, it is very undesirable and inconsistent with the constitution of our Synods that the Diocese of Montreal should have no voice in the election of its Bishops. Be it therefore recommended as the most just and feasible method of reconciling the claims of the Provincial Synod to have the choice of the Metropolitan with the claims of the Synod of Montreal to elect its own Bishops, that in case of a vacancy in the Diocese of Montreal the house of Bishops shall present one person to the Synod of Montreal, and that the person so nominated shall be subject to the approval or rejection of the Synod of the Diocese of Montreal, and in case of rejection another to be so nominated by the house of Bishops, and so on until a Bishop be chosen.

Rev. Wm. Anderson moved, seconded by Rev. J. C. Davidson that the report be received and adopted.

Rev. Canon Bancroft moved in amendment, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Bond, to strike out the words "House of Bishops" wherever it

occurs in the last clause of the report, and substitute the words "Provincial Synod" therefor.—Lost.

The Very Rev. the Dean moved in amendment, seconded by Hon. Judge McCord, to strike out the last clause and substitute the following therefor:—

That the House of Bishops shall present two or more persons to the Synod of Montreal, one of whom may be elected by such Synod as the Bishop of Montreal; and in case no election shall take place of either of the persons so nominated, the house of Bishops shall again exercise the same right of nomination until a choice shall be made by the Diocesan Synod.—Carried.

Moved by the Dean of Montreal, seconded by Archdeacon Scott, and carried, that the following resolution be added to the canon for the election of Bishops in this diocese:—

"And no other person shall be put in nomination for the office of Bishop except such as shall be nominated by the House of Bishops; provided a resolution respecting the election of Bishop of the Diocese, passed at a meeting of the Synod on Wednesday, June 17, 1863, be adopted by the Provincial Synod, respecting the election of future Bishops of Montreal, such Bishops continuing to fill permanently the office of Metropolitan."

E. Carter, Esq., then claimed the indulgence of the Synod to be permitted to move at once the adoption of a Canon on the election of a Bishop for the Diocese, which was necessary to carry into effect the resolution of the previous day in that behalf. Leave having been granted, Mr. Carter moved, seconded by Hon. Judge McCord, the following Canon which was adopted:—

CANON.

"This Synod having adopted the Report of the Committee appointed to confer with the Committee of the Provincial Synod, appointed to devise some measure in consultation with the Diocesan Synod of Montreal for the solution of the difficulties in the way of the election of a Metropolitan, as amended by this Synod, and by which it is declared, 'That the House of Bishops shall present two or more persons to the Synod of Montreal, one of whom may be elected as the Bishop of Montreal; and in case no election shall take place from the names so nominated, the House of Bishops shall again exercise the same right of nomination until a choice shall be made by the Synod:—It is hereby enacted, to give effect to the said Report and to render the same binding on this Synod:

1. "That upon a vacancy occurring, no election shall be made by this Synod of a Bishop, until the House of Bishops shall have placed in nomination before it the names of two or more persons, so that

the election of such Bishop shall be made of one of such persons recommended by one or more nominations to be made by the House of Bishops, according to the true intent and meaning of such Report.

2. "That this Canon shall become operative and have full force and effect upon the sanction in writing given thereto by his Lordship the Bishop of Montreal, or in the event of his death or absence by the Dean of Montreal, as representing this Synod.

3. "That such sanction shall be given to this Canon to render the same operative, in the event of the Provincial Synod adopting the terms of the said Report as amended, respecting the mode of election to be exercised by this Synod to fill up such vacancy."

The Canon, as then passed, took its place among the Canons of the Diocese in the report of the following Diocesan Synod in 1864, and has continued to form part of each succeeding report down to the present day. Yet, however, two conditions had to be fulfilled before the contract could be binding: 1st, The consent of the Provincial Synod at its next meeting had to be obtained; 2nd, The signature of the Bishop, or in case of his absence or death, that of the Dean of Montreal had to be affixed.

These two conditions once completed, both parties became firmly bound, the one to the other; for the signature of the Bishop or Dean bound this Diocese and completed the Canon so far as we were concerned, while the confirmation of the Provincial Synod bound the other Dioceses. These conditions once fulfilled, a solemn compact, to be broken by neither party at pleasure, was created; and it is specially important to observe how deliberately these consents were given. After the fifth Synod the question ceases to appear in the Diocesan reports. The Diocese had done its part, and the matter must now be traced through the Provincial reports alone.

The next meeting of the Provincial Synod was in September 1865. The House of Bishops informed the Lower House, by message, of all that had been done in the meantime by the Synod of the Diocese of Montreal in conjunction with the Committee of the Provincial Synod. The question was then considered at length upon a Canon introduced by the Hon.

J. H. Cameron, which was debated clause by clause. An amendment was proposed and carried relating to a Coadjutor Bishop of Montreal, but it was rejected by the House of Bishops. The Canon, as it now stands, was finally assented to by both Houses, and was placed among the Canons of the Provincial Synod. It is printed as Appendix D to the pamphlet published by Mr. M. H. Sanborn.

In September, 1868, the Provincial Synod again met, but our late Metropolitan was upon his death-bed, and could not preside. He died during the session, leaving the compact as to the Metropolitan succession incomplete, but his labours had not been in vain. The Provincial Synod at that session confirmed the Canon passed at its previous meeting, and the Dean of Montreal, as previously empowered by the full Diocesan Synod of 1863, appended his signature, and thus the work was completed. This is the solemn engagement to the Church at large which the Diocese of Montreal is now called upon to fulfil for the first time.

In the preceding pages an earnest endeavour has been made to present a clear and connected view of the whole matter. The necessity of such a statement was not perceived until very recently, and the haste with which it has been prepared has prevented that strict revision which is always desirable in a publication of any kind. A careful perusal will, however, show that the contract which now binds this Synod is no hasty nor ill-digested one. It is impossible to conceive of any law more carefully adopted or more thoroughly discussed not only in the legal assemblies of the Church of England, but by the laity generally throughout Canada. The deliberate action which was commenced at the first meeting of Bishops in 1851, was completed only in September, 1868, when the signature of the Dean gave the finishing touch to that ecclesiastical edifice which it was the work of our late Metropolitan to rear. A few passages from his opening address in 1867 may here be quoted with advantage :—

“ In Canada we rest not merely on the patent of the Queen, but on that patent supplemented by our own Acts of Synod passed with the authority and under Acts of Parliament. Hence it is that the Canadian Church is placed in a position very different from that of any other ; and it has for this reason been recently brought prominently forward by our brethren at home. In all the discussions which have taken place on these matters, constant allusion has been made to our proceedings. I would, therefore, impress upon every member of this Synod, clergy and laity, the high responsibility that rests upon us ; and that we should not, by ill-judged, ill-advised, or hasty acts, bring discredit on the Church to which we belong, and so fling back the progressive action of that Church which is now struggling for its substantive existence throughout the world.”

In the same address the Bishop gave instances of outside criticism upon our system, and quotes the following passage from the Dean of Westminster, “ not,” he explains, “ that we should accept all that the Dean says, but that we should hear what others think of us” :—

“ For some years past, as you know, the Bishops of Canada have not been appointed by the Crown, but have been elected by mixed Synods, partly of clergy and partly of laity. It is not unnatural that the Bishops of Canada feel very much the effect of these Synods of election. There is no doubt whatever, it is patent in Canada, that the elections of their Bishops are like ordinary elections elsewhere, and are accompanied with the scandals which attend hotly contested elections here. Almost every one (I fully admit there are excellent exceptions) of the Bishops of Canada, since this change took place, have been violently contested, and some of them have been won by very small majorities. It has become a matter of discussion in the newspapers in a way that has never taken place with our appointments in England. Such a point has it

“ reached, that I have even seen a squib quite unworthy of so
 “ sacred a subject, but published in highly respectable journals,
 “ in which the different candidates for the Bishopric were
 “ described as race-horses, in a series of articles entitled ‘ The
 “ ‘ Race for the Mitre ;’ and in another election I read in a
 “ Canadian newspaper : ‘ The issue of the election goes to show
 “ ‘ that the system is not adapted to our institutions. One and
 “ ‘ all agree that the power to choose our Bishops is an unmiti-
 “ ‘ gated evil on this side of the Atlantic. It is most
 “ ‘ demoralizing in its tendencies.’ ”

In the same address our late Bishop expressed his own opinion on our present Canon in the following decided manner : “ As to
 “ our own Diocese, we are already in a different position from
 “ the rest, in consequence of the office of Metropolitan being
 “ attached to it. Our Synod does not claim the full power of
 “ election ; but the House of Bishops nominates, and the Synod
 “ assents or dissents. I own that, as far as my own feelings go,
 “ I cannot but wish that we may see other Dioceses follow this
 “ example, as I think it would tend to augment the dignity,
 “ respectability, and efficiency of the Church, and to do away
 “ with what certainly are the evils of a popular election for the
 “ holder of so high and so holy an office.”

These are the traditions of our mother Church which endowed this See, and which yet contributes large sums to the support of our clergy. Great deference is due to these traditions, for every link which binds us to our mother Church should be carefully guarded, and, in the words of the patent, our See is subordinate to the Archepiscopal See of Canterbury. But it is a mistake to suppose that in the sister Church of the United States even a Diocesan election is quite untrammelled. The following Canon shows that no one can become a Bishop even there without the consent of a majority of their General Convention and their House of Bishops :—

CANON 13—SECTION 2.

“Every Bishop elect, before his consecration, shall produce to the House of Bishops, from the Convention by whom he is elected, evidence of such election; and from the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, in General Convention, evidence of their approbation of his testimonials, and of their assent to his consecration; and also certificates, respectively; such certificates, in both cases, to be signed by a constitutional majority of the members of the Diocesan Convention or of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, as the case may be. The same evidence of election by, and the same certificate from, the members of the Diocesan Convention, shall be presented to the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies in General Convention.

“If the House of Bishops consent to the consecration, the presiding Bishop with any two Bishops may proceed to perform the same, or any three Bishops to whom he may communicate the testimonials.”

There is, as regards the clergy of this Diocese, an undoubted hardship in the probable difficulty which our Canon throws in the way of the nomination of any one of their number; and the noble self-denial of the clergy, as shown by the debate re-printed as Appendix B of Mr. Sanborn's pamphlet, is beyond all praise. The debate is worthy of careful perusal; the clergy do not assert any claim, and their chief anxiety seemed to be lest the Bishops of the Province might bashfully refuse to send down their own names; but the Metropolitan calmed their fears on that point.

The question, however, is not one for the clergy alone; every layman of this Diocese has an interest in the dignity of the See to which he individually belongs. Still, the present contract between this Diocese and the Church at large is not irrevocable at any future time. If it be found on cool reflection that the honour accorded to us has been too dearly purchased, our constitution provides a remedy without resort to revolutionary measures. The Provincial Synod will not be likely to stand in our way. If our honours are too oppressive, there is a method of resigning them; but, fortunately, our constitution will not allow us to break in six months a compact which it has cost

seventeen years to make. The conditions necessary to a constitutional solution of the difficulty are :—

1st. There must be a Bishop of Montreal ; because until there is a Bishop, there can be no Synod, save for election.

2nd. There must be notice given at a regular legal meeting of Synod, the subject discussed, and resolution carried by a two-thirds majority, clerical and lay ; it must then come up at the next Synod, and be confirmed by a similar majority and receive the Bishop's assent.

3rd. The matter must then be brought before two sessions of the Provincial Synod, carried at one session and confirmed at another ; when all this is done, the contract is at an end.

Such are the safeguards with which the forethought of preceding Synods has protected our Church from rash innovation, while yet leaving room for the constitutional reform of intolerable grievances. Without such safeguards all government becomes impossible. To allow a majority unconstitutionally to over-ride these safeguards at its pleasure is anarchy.

It will be remembered that last November the House of Bishops proposed that, if one of their number were elected, he would undertake to resign as soon as this Canon could be repealed. This proposition was rejected, possibly because such an arrangement might be nullified for want of a two-thirds majority at a legal Diocesan Synod. The Diocese might not desire another election, and might refuse to confirm such a bargain. It is, however, doubtful if such a proposal will again be made, for the Synod, by its adopted report, has, with refreshing candour, eliminated two Bishops from discussion, and pronounced against the physical qualifications of the two remaining ones.

To run with a majority is always pleasant, and a minority, among other disadvantages, have generally to contend with some opprobrious epithet lavished with more heartiness than discrimination. The term "lunatic" is not so much to be complained

of, inasmuch as there were certain eccentricities characterizing the late meeting of Synod, which somewhat reflect upon all who took part in it. The epithet "ritualist," however, has a precise meaning, and will lose its force if applied vaguely to all who happen to differ from the majority. There can be no question of ritual in the interpretation of a simple compact, and yet the cry "ritualist" once raised, it seems impossible to obtain a hearing on any subject whatever. Even a ritualist might hold sound views on a purely constitutional question.

It may be that it is best for the Diocese that the city of Montreal should cease to be the seat of the Metropolitan See. Our city has ceased to be the political capital of the country; it may cease to be the ecclesiastical centre of our Church system. If it be found reasonable, after due debate, that such should be the case, let it be so; but any present inconvenience is preferable to violent and hasty remedies, which only sow the wind to reap in after years the whirlwind of passion and disorder.

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