

every ten years since 1867—viz., in the years 1867, 1878, 1888, 1897. It is a gathering of Bishops. All Bishops of the Anglican Communion, or, to put it in another way, all Bishops of Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury, are invited to attend. Its discussions are not open to the public, but the resolutions which are passed are embodied in an "encyclical letter" and addressed to "the faithful" through the world. On the other hand, there has never been a Pan-Anglican Congress before. Its meetings will be open to clergy and laity, to men and women. There will be present delegates from every diocese in the Anglican Communion, and any English Churchman or Churchwoman who is ready to pay for a ticket will have the right of admission to all meetings.

The importance of the Lambeth Conference depends upon a somewhat different set of considerations. The number whose presence is to be expected is chiefly interesting as a testimony to the growth of the Anglican Communion. In the year 1867 144 Bishops were invited and 76 attended; in the year 1878 173 were invited and 100 attended; in 1888 211 were invited and 145 attended; in 1897 the number of those who attended had risen to 197, but there seems to be no record available of the number invited. The number of those who are entitled to receive an invitation to the Conference of 1908 is about 300; of these it is expected that at least 230 will attend. Thus there has been a steady and rapid growth of the Episcopate; and it is worth noticing that the proportion of those who attend in relation to those who are invited is far larger in the latter gatherings than in the former. This change is no doubt due to a growing recognition of the value of the deliberations which have taken place, and to the entire disappearance of the suspicion with which some of the Churchmen regarded the initiation of these assemblies.

But it is rather the status of its members, as responsible rulers of the Church, than their quantity that gives to this gathering of the Bishops its special character and significance. It would be impossible for the leaders of any institution, which was carrying out its work in conditions as different as those which characterise the various dioceses of the Anglican Communion, to meet together for counsel and encouragement without gain to the whole organisation. Some Bishops are engaged in laying the foundations of native churches amid such teeming populations as those of India and China; it is the task of others to provide the ministra-

tions of the Church for a few lonely Christians scattered over such vast areas as those of the dioceses of Selkirk and Alaska. Yet, in whatever conditions they have been called to work, the problems of sin and unbelief with which they are confronted are much the same; and it is in the one faith in the one Lord, through grace supplied by the same Sacramental ordinances, that they are everywhere set to meet the universal needs of the human race. Men who have so much in common, amid such diverse conditions cannot meet together and discuss each other's methods and difficulties, hopes and fears without great, though it may be indefinable, profit to themselves and to the work in which they are all alike engaged.

But there is more than this. The Bishops are not the officers of a mere human organisation, but the divinely-appointed rulers of a Divine society, "the temple of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." They are the successors of the apostles and ambassadors for Christ. And though the Lambeth Conference has always disclaimed all pretensions to be, in any formal sense, a synodical or conciliar assembly, and though the various national Churches which are united in it are not bound to an acceptance of its decisions, yet still we may rightly believe that something of Divine illumination will be forthcoming for its deliberations; and we may rightly attribute to its conclusions an authority something more than human.

## DIOCESAN SYNOD.

Minutes of Proceedings of the Second Session of the Seventeenth Synod of the Diocese of Waiapu, N.Z.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 1907.

The Synod assembled in St. John's schoolroom at 4 p.m. The names of the clerical and lay representatives were called over, and the president declared the Synod duly constituted. Members present, see table of attendance.

Apologies for Absence.—Apologies were made for several of the clergy and laity who were absent.

The president delivered his opening address.

Officers.—The Rev. M. W. Butterfield was appointed clerical secretary, Mr J. B. Fielder lay secretary, and Mr Thomas Tanner chairman of committees, and the Rev. M. W. Butterfield was asked to furnish reports to the Press.

Hours of Business.—It was resolved that the hours of business be

from 4 to 5.55 p.m., with an adjournment to 8 p.m.

President's Address.—Rev. Canon Mayne moved, Mr T. Tanner seconded, that the thanks of the Synod be given to the Right Rev. the president for his address, and that he be respectfully requested to allow the same to be published with the proceedings of the Synod.—Carried.

Late Ven. Archdeacon Williams.—Standing Order 14 having been suspended, the Rev. Canon Mayne proposed, Mr J. B. Fielder seconded, that this Synod desires to express its deep sorrow at the loss sustained by the Church of the Province of New Zealand, and this diocese in particular, by the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Samuel Williams.—Carried, all standing.

Papers laid upon the Table.—Mr J. B. Fielder, diocesan secretary, laid a number of returns, accounts, and reports upon the table.

Reports Read.—The reports of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Trusts Board, the Waiapu Board of Diocesan Trustees Incorporated, Cathedral Chapter, were read. Printed copies of these reports, and accounts of the diocesan treasurer, etc., were issued to members.

The report of the Combined Clerical Pension Board was taken as read, and printed copies of same and accounts were distributed.

Sessional Committee on Returns and Accounts.—The president nominated the following as a Sessional Committee on Returns and Accounts:—The Ven. Archdeacon Rud-dock, Revs. H. P. Cowx, L. Dawson Thomas, H. T. Rawnsley; Messrs C. A. FitzRoy, H. H. Clemens and Ernest White.—The Synod concurred in the nomination.

Letters Read.—The Bishop read letters he had received from the Bishop of New Guinea, the Bishop of Melanesia, and Archdeacon Bannister of Hong Kong, re the votes passed at the last session of this Synod.

Standing Committee.—Resolved, that the Standing Committee consist of the Right Rev. the Bishop, and four clerical and six lay members.

The following were nominated:—Clergy: Ven. Archdeacon D. Rud-dock, Revs. Canon Mayne, C. L. Tuke, Revs. A. F. Gardiner and E. Robertshawe; laymen, Messrs C. H. Edwards, J. B. Fielder, Henry Hill, J. H. Sheath, Thos. Tanner, John Thornton, F. W. Williams and J. N. Williams.

Notices of motion having been given, the Synod adjourned to 4 p.m. Friday, the 27th September, 1907. Confirmed, 27th September, 1907.—W. L. Waiapu, President.