


United States, may be abolished at any time by the Sovereign Pontiff.

 107. *Peculiar Features of our National Canon Law.*—The general character of the national canon law of the United States, as contained in the Plenary Councils of Baltimore and in the decrees of the Provincial and Diocesan Synods of this country, is that of a missionary country—*i.e.*, of a country which is not yet converted to the faith. Now, in missionary countries the disciplinary organization or *régime* of dioceses is naturally imperfect and inchoative in the beginning, and only develops itself gradually, in proportion as the faith spreads and the Church flourishes. As a rule, the S. C. de P. F. at first appoints for such a country a priest in the capacity of *Praefectus Apostolicus*. Afterwards, when the diocesan organization is more advanced, it appoints a *Vicarius Apostolicus*, who is made a titular bishop, *i.e.*, a bishop *in part. inf.* Lastly, when the diocesan organization has progressed farther, bishops with residentiary sees are appointed. Still, even these bishops and their dioceses remain under the sole direction of the S. Congr. de Prop. Fide, and retain their missionary character until the diocesan *régime* becomes perfected to such a degree as to be in full conformity with the sacred canons.

108. The organization of *parishes* in missionary countries progresses in a similar gradual manner. At first there will be simple missionaries travelling from place to place, and gathering together small and scattered congregations which will be nothing but missions. As these missions or congregations grow and prosper, they assume the character of quasi-parishes with fixed limits, and the missionary becomes a resident rector or *quasi-parochus*, and should not be removed by the bishop without sufficient cause. Finally, when the quasi-parish has acquired a stable existence and become possessed of sufficient income for the maintenance of divine worship, whether in the form of pew-rents, collec-