

The Maritime Synod. The Synod of the maritime Provinces will meet in St. Andrew's Church, St. John, N. B., October 5th, at 7 30 p. m. Two questions of importance will be before it in addition to the ordinary routine of business.

One of these will be that of a fourth professor for the Presbyterian College, Halifax. An earnest effort has been made during the summer to remove the debt on the college and prepare the way for an addition to the teaching staff. The effort has been so successful that it is hoped the way will be clear for the appointment.

The other question that the Synod will be called upon to face, and that will require another earnest effort, is one that has been in some measure before the Church already, viz, the removal of the deficit on the Foreign Mission Fund. This year, for the first time since 1887, the Foreign Mission Fund, E. D. closed its accounts with a considerable balance on the wrong side. This was owing chiefly as is already well known to a large forward movement that was taken in Trinidad; a movement that was necessary if we would reap the advantages offered by the new school law of that Island, and a movement which has since proved itself a wise one, from the standing and success which it has helped to give to our mission there. The Maritime Synod will do as it has ever done with such questions. A long pull, a strong pull, a pull all together, and the missionary chariot will be over the difficult piece of road and on firm ground again. But the pull must be taken. All must take a vigorous hold, then and only then, thus and only thus, will the work be done.

The Assembly Minutes. The "blue book" is larger than ever before. It comes to us a goodly volume of 560 large pages of closely printed type. Sixty-four pages contain the minutes of the last General Assembly; the Home Mission Reports cover 116 pages, giving full and accurate information regarding all the departments of our great Home Work; the Foreign Mission Report takes 75 pages to tell its story, while the multitudinous figures of the statistical report occupy 133 pages. There are in all thirty different reports. There is not a question great or small connected with the facts or figures of any part or department of the large and varied operations of our church but will find here an answer as full and accurate as could be obtained.

It should be much more largely circulated and read than at present. Any one wishing a copy can have it by sending twenty-five cents to Rev. Dr. Reid, Toronto.

"There are eighteen missions of the American Missionary Association among the Chinese in California."

Bishop Phillips Brooks says: "As one looks round upon the community to-day, how clear the problem of hundreds of unhappy lives appears! Rich men who with all their wealth are weary and wretched; learned men whose learning only makes them querulous and jealous; believing men whose faith is always souring into bigotry and envy. Every man knows what these men need; just something which shall make them let themselves go out into the open ocean of a complete self-sacrifice."

"Panegyric ill becomes a funeral service. Simplicity, tenderness and solace should characterize all the exercises connected with the burial of the dead. The showy display all too common, and the eulogistic extravagance so much indulged in, are in bad taste, and do harm. Let funeral sermons be reserved for exceptional characters. Ordinarily, some wise, helpful and consoling remarks, brief and to the point, with suitable scriptural selections and a warm-hearted, tender and sympathetic prayer, are all that the occasion demands, the aim being not so much the honor of the dead as the benefit of the living."

Sacrifice is the indispensable condition of success. We must renounce in order to prevail. He that seeks his life loses it; he that loses his life finds it. One must sow in tears if he would reap in joy. Master and scholar have the same experience—that suffering is required in order to fruitfulness and victory. It is the furnace that purifies and renders efficacious; the spices must be bruised to bring forth their fragrance. Happy they who recognize this law of the divine economy, and are content to suffer if only they may be made to bear much fruit.—*William M. Taylor, D.D.*

We call the Chinese heathen, and yet they have some customs that would do credit to a Christian people. On every New Year's morning each man and boy, from the emperor to the lowest peasant, pays a visit to his mother. He carries her a present, varying in value according to his station, thanking her for all she has done for him, and asks a continuance of her favor another year. They are taught to believe that mothers have an influence for good over their sons and all through life.—*Pres. Banner.*

Did you ever feel the joy of winning a soul for Christ? I tell you there is no joy out of heaven which excels it—the grasp of the hand of one who says: "By your means I was turned from darkness."—*C. H. Spurgeon.*

If thou seek rest in this life, how wilt thou then attain to the everlasting rest? Dispose not thyself for much rest, but for great patience. Seek true peace—not in earth, but in heaven; not in men, nor in any other creature, but in God alone.—*Thomas à Kempis.*