

MEETING OF SYNOD.

The time appointed for the next annual meeting of our Supreme Ecclesiastical Court is again fast coming round.

The Synod meets this year in St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, on Wednesday, the 28th inst.

The Committee on Business, consisting of the Moderator and Clerk all Presbytery Clerks, Drs. Cook, George, and Barclay, Revs. James Bain and K. McLennan, and the Representative Elders from Montreal, Brockville and Toronto, is to meet in the same place the evening before at 7 o'clock. Parties having new business to bring before the Synod are required to lay their papers before this Committee, and intimate their intention of doing so to the Synod Clerk 4 days beforehand.

There are *ought to be* at least 200 members of Synod—office-bearers, that is, privileged, *ex officio*, to take their seats, deliberate and vote. We say *ought to be*, because the complement depends upon the election of Representative Elders. If that duty has not been attended to, the number may be considerably less; if it has, as it ought to have been many months ago in every charge vacant or not vacant, the number is over what has been named.

The city of Toronto is central. Few places are more accessible to the majority of those who should be present. Once upon the journey and barring the expense, which is not serious, distance is no consideration in these times of direct and speedy travelling. The Presbytery of Toronto is itself responsible for the turning-out of 50 members; the 3 Presbyteries of Hamilton, Guelph and London, immediately to the West, for 50 more; Kingston and Bathurst to the East, for the same number; and, if there were a determination to muster in fifties, we do not suppose the 3 most distant Presbyteries, Glengary, Montreal and Quebec, would fail in their contingent.

The business will be important enough to ensure a large attendance, provided a becoming interest is felt in it. Reports will, as usual, be submitted on the various Schemes of the Church—the Temporalities Fund, including our great Home Mission effort, the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, the French Mission, Jewish Mission, Orphanage and Bursary Schemes. Queen's College, Sabbath Schools, Sabbath Observance, and Church Property, will also engage attention. Then doubtless we shall have some Overtures, praying for the alteration of this law or

the enactment of that. Who ever heard of a meeting of Synod without Overtures? Does every body think it impossible, any body undesirable to have such a meeting? We hear also that grave causes, coming up by appeal from Presbyteries, will be submitted for final adjudication. To name these things is to say enough to indicate the importance of the business to be despatched. We only add that, if we find the ensuing meeting unimportant it will be a discovery we have not made in respect to any of its predecessors we have had the pleasure and honour of attending. The meeting over, the work done, the members dispersed, we have always left for home with the conviction 'hat, however keen the discussions, however improper the temper at times displayed, however contrary to our views the deliverances given, good has been done, we ourselves have been participators of the good.

But the interest taken in the affairs of the Church is not always proportionate to their importance. The sense of responsibility is not in the ratio of its proper seriousness. Shall we this year have a repetition of what happened two years ago at Kingston, the most central and convenient place of meeting in all the Province, when of 96 ministers and 82 elders—in all 178 members—only 62 ministers and 29 elders, in all 91 members, were present—just 2 or 3 more than *half* the whole membership; or a repetition of what happened last year at Québec, the attractions of which were supposed to have a peculiar charm alike for those who had been and those who had never been to that singularly interesting and most picturesquely situated capital—when, of 99 ministers and 89 elders on the Roll, only 52 of the former and 18 of the latter, a few more than *one third* of the whole, were present. If a proper sense of interest and responsibility existed in the hearts of our office-bearers, there was every reason for a full muster of members last year. It must have been known that the question of Union—a life-and-death question—as many seem to view it—was coming up, and surely that of itself was sufficient to rally the forces for and against. Yet what is the fact? Only 49 votes were told upon the division on that question. The conclusion is inevitable. There are office-bearers, preaching and ruling elders, whose special duty it is to superintend and encourage the upbuilding of our ecclesiastical edifices, who *may* be glad enough to see its walls