

all changes, during the past year affecting the Roll of Synod, including demissions, deaths, inductions, ordinations and licences with the dates of such events.

2. Papers involving new business to be laid before Synod should be transmitted to Rev. Dr. Bayne, Pictou, Convener of Committee on Bills, fourteen days if possible previous to the day of meeting. Papers forwarded in due time will take precedence on the docket.

3. No travelling expenses can be claimed by ministers or elders from congregations refusing or neglecting to make a collection for the Synod fund.

4. Supplemented congregations are required as a condition of receiving aid, to make collections for the different schemes of the church, as well as to answer the questions in the statistical schedule. Presbyteries are directed by Synod to require evidence that the congregational payments have been paid before the supplement due July 1st is drawn.

5. Boards and standing committees are expected to have their reports ready whenever called for, after the first sederunt.

LESSONS OF THE SEASON.

The past winter has been remarkably long and severe, and much distress has been the result. We all know how to sympathize with those who shiver in the chill blast, without food or clothing or fuel. Their condition is simply terrible. It appeals loudly and irresistibly for instant help.

Ah! but think of the cold winter of sin which reigns over countless multitudes of human souls. How chill, how gloomy, how deadly its sway! Our sympathies should be evoked in the latter case much more powerfully than in the former, for it is unspeakably more pitiable. Reader, are you bound by the fetters of spiritual winter? If not, you must do all in your power to rescue those who are so bound.

The warm sunshine, the south wind and the genial rains have conquered winter, broken its fetters, restored the smile to the face of nature, filled our forests with song and with flowers, and clad our fields in

green. Thus too is the soul quickened into new life, gladdened, beautified, when the Sun of Righteousness arises with healing in His wings, when the Spirit breathes upon the slain, and when the desolate heart is refreshed with gracious showers of Divine influence.

This has been a winter of sore famine in many lands. The wail of the hungry, dying for lack of food, has come to us from Syria, and Algeria and Russia and Sweden and Prussia and France. Many thousands have suffered helplessly the most agonizing of deaths. But we were not permitted to contemplate famine afar off: it came near us, and with grim gaunt visage stared in our faces. It smote the fishermen along our shores and the farmers in distant and secluded settlements. Many were sufferers who had never known want before—industrious, sober, frugal families, but the results of their toil were denied to them by a frowning Providence.

The cry of distress has called forth a prompt response. Rich and poor have given their aid. Suffering has been alleviated, and famine disappointed of its prey. The good work of helping the needy is still going on; the hand of the beneficent is still open, and must remain open for months to come.—This is as it ought to be in a christian land among christian people.

God is teaching us solemn lessons, by the failure of the harvest of both sea and land. The farmer may plough and sow and plant; he may watch his fields by day and night; but God alone can give the increase: first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. He may withhold his genial rains in their season; or he may clothe His sun with clouds when its rays are needed in harvest; or He may commission His frost to nip the promise of summer; or He may send His mighty wind to devastate and destroy on land and sea.

The fisherman may set his nets and cast his lines, he may toil adventurously in sunshine and in storm, but the harvest of the sea may elude his utmost search.

Farmer and Fisherman alike should learn the lesson of their entire dependence on God. Our best plans may be baffled and disap-