

John Macneil

The Presbyterian.

A MISSIONARY AND



RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

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COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

We remind the Members of this Commission that a meeting is appointed by the Synod to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, on the first Wednesday (the 3rd) of October instant.

SECRETARY TO THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

We learn from the *Home Record* that Walter Malcolm, Esq., has been appointed Secretary to the Colonial Committee in room of the late William Young, Esq.

THE EXISTING VACANCIES. HOW ARE THEY TO BE SUPPLIED?

Those who were present at the last meeting of Synod will not readily forget the solemn scene which accompanied its opening, nor will the earnestness of the special outpouring of prayer to God for help in the afflictive circumstances in which the Church was placed soon pass from their remembrance. A solemn awe seemed to be upon all, and a sense of being in God's hand, a feeling of entire dependence upon Him influenced all, while one of the fathers of the Church addressed the Synod, and another, who had long as a co-presbyter associated with some of the departed brethren, led the devotions and, under the

influence of strong feeling appealed with deep earnestness to the Hearer and Answerer of Prayer to overrule their deliberations for good, and to render these afflictions a source of good, and to bless and prosper the Church. If that deep sense of entire reliance upon our Maker continue to influence Ministers and people, it will be well for us. Feeling then this, and looking to the Great Head of the Church for His blessing, active, energetic measures should be forthwith taken to endeavour to supply the existing vacancies and to build-up our Zion. One desirable step will be a combined effort so to set forth their duty that parents may be found ready to devote their children and that young men may be found willing to consecrate themselves to the office of the ministry. But, important as this is for the ultimate extension of our Church, a more prompt relief is necessary. The Synod decided wisely on a special appeal by the Moderator to the Church of Scotland. We are persuaded that a faithful, earnest appeal from our Synod, setting forth our necessities, exhibiting our destitution and detailing our actual circumstances, would be productive of good. All publicity should be given to it, and care should be taken to secure its appearance in the *Home Record*. It is also matter of grave consideration whether the Commission of Synod should not empower a delegate again to follow up this appeal by personal influence and explanation. It is matter of reflection whether such an ef-

fort should be made now or after the next meeting of Synod, when our temporal matters may perhaps be in a more settled state. We have often thought lately that the Canadian Church is brought too little under the notice of the Ministers and Probationers of the Church in Scotland. Even occasional letters from individual Ministers would do good, but it has occurred to us that an annual statement from our Presbyteries of the position of the Church within their bounds, of the openings for usefulness and extension, would prove profitable for local circulation and would be eminently beneficial in attracting attention to the Province. The position of the people is not now what it once was—our country is fast becoming populous—settlements are dense—villages and towns are rising with wonderful rapidity and material comforts are abundant. Even temporarily then the position of many a minister, with a family, may be bettered by a removal from Scotland to this rising country, where the opportunities of placing his children in a position for attaining a respectable livelihood are so numerous. Our Province is so far advanced that it holds its own place with the nations in the World's gathering for the exhibition of industry and art. How important then it is that a land, whose resources are so great and whose future is so brilliant, should be occupied by the ministers of the Word! Correct views of Canada are now more generally obtaining, and we do trust that the special appeal from the Moderator