

# THE Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

AUGUST, 1869.

## THE LATE MEETING OF SYNOD.

This was one of the most pleasant and profitable meetings ever held by the Supreme Court of our Church. There was not one case of appeal from any of our eleven Presbyteries. The past must have been a year of profound peace and good will among our congregations. We have seen on former occasions several precious days taken up with painful and unprofitable discussions arising from "cases" that did good to no one. Happily there was nothing of this kind before us at Pictou.

The Reports presented to the Synod were deeply interesting, as our readers may well judge for themselves by perusing the present number of the *Record*. Any church should be thankful to receive such Reports as our Home and Foreign Boards present.

The discussions were all conducted with admirable temper, as well as with brotherly candour and courtesy. It is neither possible nor desirable that men should always think alike, but they can at least differ courteously and discuss their differences earnestly, honestly, and kindly. It was thus that our Synodical discussions were conducted.

The devotional element received due prominence. Prayer, praise and reading of the Scriptures were a considerable part of every day's exercises. This was as it should be; although here again it is possible that some improvement might be made in the way of intermingling the business with prayer and praise.

The attendance was large. The ministers present numbered *One Hundred*; four of these were corresponding members.

The Elders numbered *Fifty*: Total *One Hundred and Fifty*. There were *Seventeen* ministers absent, and *Forty* Elders. Thus if all our members were in their places our number would be upwards of Two Hundred. Some of the ministers were kept at home by severe illness, and others by sudden calls of duty, some came up who appeared to need unbroken rest and careful tending rather than the worry of work and travel. Some travelled at least three hundred miles. One came all the way from Newfoundland. We regret that the attendance of Elders was not larger. It is of the greatest importance that the Elders should be inspired with a true church spirit—a willingness to labour for Christ in His own House of which are officers. Why should not our Elders show as much energy and enterprise in the work of the Church as they do in business, for example, or in the management of religious or other Societies? One reason no doubt is that the Elders do not come with sufficient frequency into our Church Courts, and that thus comparatively few of them become acquainted with our forms of business and order.

Among the delightful episodes of the late meeting was the reception of Rev. A. F. Kemp a delegate from the Canada Church whose address was truly refreshing to all who had the privilege of hearing it. It was also very pleasant to hear the testimony of Mr. Robertson, late of Anceitum, to the effects of our Foreign Mission work in the South Seas. The Rev. G. Lambert of Trinidad, was expected but did not arrive until the Synod was closed.