

I am the more inclined to do this when I reflect on the expressions of esteem which were used when my election was proposed, and the unanimity with which it was effected. Had these terms of regard proceeded from mere men of the world, I should have deemed them valueless. But the case is different when it relates to those possessed of talent, acquirements, integrity and worth.

But, before executing my intended purpose, allow me to thank you for my present honourable position, and the uniform kindness I have experienced while presiding at your deliberations. And permit me to add that, if I have said any thing calculated to hurt the feelings of any member, or to injure our cause, I ask forgiveness. If there has been anything amiss in this respect, be assured the error was in the judgement and not in the heart. It was caused solely by a desire to discharge the duties of the Moderator for the general good.

As regards the subjects which have occupied our attention, they are all of great importance. Not a few of them indeed vitally affect the interests of our Church. All have received due consideration, and been ably discussed. And the arrangements, which have been made concerning them, promise, with the Divine blessing, to be for the glory of God and the good of souls.

Those that had been appointed to attend to the interests of ourselves and others have communicated valuable information. As regards this, however, while there is much to encourage, there is also something to humble and to excite to increased diligence. And, considering the zeal manifested in treating these matters, there is reason to expect that such will be the result.

A very pleasing feature of this Meeting of Synod is the visit which has been made to us by Brethren from a distance. They have imparted to us information of great interest and importance. And their appearance otherwise has been highly creditable to themselves and to that branch of the Church to which they belong. We have thus in various ways been greatly benefited by the intercourse which has been so auspiciously commenced. The Report also of our Deputation to the Lower Provinces was extremely interesting, and evinces that its members did the work entrusted to them with great fidelity. The only thing which marred our happiness relative to this was the removal of one of their number, who was an ornament to our Church, and to whose eloquent addresses we have often listened with delight. But it is consolatory to think that what is our loss is his unspeakable gain.

If our discussions relative to the temporalities of our Church elicited information, this cannot fail to be productive of good. It must tend to excite our people to imitate the example which has been so nobly set by their ministers. And, should this be the case, means will soon be obtained by which many destitute settlements of Canada will be blessed with the ordinances of the Gospel. It is gratifying to find that Queen's College is progressively answering the purpose of its institution. It has been clearly shown to us that all connected with it are discharging their duties with ability and success. We have thus much cause for gratitude. It is, however, to be regretted that our congregations have not done their duty as respects this matter. It becomes us then to arouse them to a sense of their responsibility, and induce them to give the necessary pecuniary support. If this is not done, our recent liberality will be fruitless. We cannot otherwise be supplied with a sufficient number of ministerial labourers.

It is a pleasing characteristic of this Meeting of Synod, that business affairs have been mingled with missionary efforts. This may well be considered a token of spiritual prosperity. The addresses delivered at our missionary meeting were suitable, refreshing and admirably fitted to impress on the minds of the auditory the objects to which their attention was directed. Permit me to add that I felt myself to be highly honor-

ed in being privileged to preside on that occasion. But the results of these proceedings will not be what they ought to be unless they are made to subserve the great end of our mission. This should be constantly kept in view, and pursued with diligence, zeal and fidelity. Our office is eminently important. While it benefits this life, it dispenses blessings commensurate with eternity. The design of the Christian ministry is to make known to men the way of eternal life.

It is evident then that those best qualified for this work have need to be reminded of its arduous nature. They require to be exhorted to persevere in the faithful discharge of its momentous duties. It becomes us then to look well to ourselves, and to desire to have clear evidence that we have an interest in the Saviour, and that we are His approved servants. We should seek to recognise His presence, and to think, speak and act in accordance with the solemnity of our appointments.

For this purpose we should habitually read the Holy Scriptures in a prayerful spirit. This will best fit us for that work which has been the work of our choice, and ought to be the work of our hearts. We shall thus be increasingly qualified to tell our people concerning the ruin of man, the means of his recovery, the transformation of the heart into the divine image, and the performance of those duties which are the evidences of a pure faith. We shall thus also be better able to instruct the young, comfort the sick, and arouse the careless. The more we become spiritually acquainted with the Bible, the more we shall become acquainted with its Author, and the more shall we be disposed to imitate Him, who pitied all men, spoke to them with love, and beseeched them to flee to Him for salvation.

And I would press on the mind of my younger brethren the importance of reading the Scriptures in the original languages. On entering the ministry, so many things claim attention that they are apt to be negligent in this respect. This, however, should not be the case. It is doubtless true that useful knowledge may otherwise be obtained. But it is not equal to that which may be attained by following the course recommended.

At the same time general literature should be diligently cultivated. But in all acquirements our aim should be to render our utility and efficiency known to all men. We should never forget that, the preaching of the Gospel is the business of a Christian minister. This is not only his chief but most honourable employment.

Let us then constantly endeavour, by our attainments, our conduct, and our preaching, to evince that whatever can be reasonably expected from ministers of religion may be found in the section of the Church to which we belong. We cannot otherwise expect to have our labours crowned with success. We cannot otherwise have the conscious approbation of our God. We cannot otherwise become fit to shine as the stars in the heavenly paradise. We cannot otherwise hope to hear the approving sentence pronounced on us, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." The Synod then adjourned in the usual form to meet again at Hamilton in May, 1857.

P. S.—We cannot supply sets of the *Presbyterian* from the beginning, but, as far as in our power, furnish back numbers.

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