

# The Record.

TORONTO, JULY, 1838.

COLLECTION FOR FRENCH CANADIAN  
MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

According to appointment of Synod, the collection for the French Canadian Missionary Society, will be taken up on the Third Sabbath of July. The duty of the church to the French Canadians in Lower Canada, has been so often stated and enforced, that we are persuaded that no necessity now exists for pointing out this duty, and urging attention to it. The consideration of the facts, that so many thousands in our own land are still in spiritual darkness, and under the influence of a system of Antichristian error, and that they are our own fellow-countrymen, whose influence affects greatly, for good or evil, the progress and prosperity of our Province, should lead us not merely to feel and acknowledge our obligations, but to discharge our duty, by disseminating the word of God, and by promoting such missionary operations, as may tend, by the blessing of God, to dispel the prevailing darkness, and extend the knowledge of the way of salvation through Christ Jesus, the only name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved.

It is right that the congregations should know that the society whose operations we are called upon to assist, is considerably in debt, and that therefore liberal contributions are earnestly looked for. It may be interesting to state that, since the Annual Meeting of the Society, two small churches have been organised amongst the Converts and Missionaries, one at St. Elizabeth and the other at Pointe aux Trembles. The number being thus raised to four, a Synod was held on the 21st ult., at which each church was represented by two delegates. It was then unanimously resolved to form a new ecclesiastical connexion with the "Union of the Evangelical Churches of France," and for this to apply through the Rev. F. Monod, D. D., of Paris, to their Synod, which meets in August next. An ecclesiastical constitution, similar to that of the churches of France, was also adopted. This step is in accordance with the views of the Committee, as sketched in the last two reports, and it is hoped will give general satisfaction to the friends of the Mission.

The Institution at Pointe aux Trembles is still in successful operation. During the past winter there were 54 boys and 16 girls attending the Schools. During the summer the numbers are somewhat less.

We trust the collection will be attended to promptly, and the amount remitted without delay, and that the people when giving of their means will not withhold their hearty interest, sympathy, and prayers. The object is a most important one, and will, we trust, commend itself more and more to the hearts and consciences of our people.

## THE LATE SYNOD.

Not in a spirit of boasting, but with deep gratitude to God, we record, year by year, the increasing interest, dignity, and solemnity which mark our Synodical proceedings. Our late meeting in Hamilton was, in many respects, an improvement on any previously held. The attendance was large; the business was conducted in a more orderly manner; and the spirit of harmony was more fully developed. The Synod now includes one hundred and thirty one settled ministers, of whom one hundred were present. The number of elders present was about sixty. The late Moderator, Mr. Smellie, who was selected from among the anti-disruption ministers, was succeeded by Mr. Wardrope, the first of our own licentiates ordained by the Church as the Presbyterian Church of Canada. As usual, the first regular diet was spent in devotional exercises, which were peculiarly present and profitable. The subsequent proceedings will be found elsewhere more fully recorded. Here we shall only glance at some leading points. The Report submitted on the state of religion shewed that our Church had not failed to receive a portion of the gracious shower, which, during the past year, has so largely descended on the North American continent. No subject awakened a deeper interest than the proposed union with the United Presbyterian Church. Their respected deputies were heard with the utmost delight. The resolutions adopted at their late Synod were fully discussed, and although the negotiation proceeds less rapidly than some might have wished, the consummation seemed earnestly desired by all. The College Report was in many respects encouraging. It shewed that about 50 students are being trained with a view to the ministry in our Church. Upwards of £1,500 had been paid last year in liquidation of the debt due on the College property. This accounted for an apparent deficiency in the ordinary revenue. The subjects of exercising discipline on persons engaged in the traffic of intoxicating drinks, and on persons giving countenance to balls, card-playing, theatres, and circuses, were discussed. On the evil tendency of these occupations and amusements decided opinions were expressed, although it was deemed inexpedient to lay down any absolute rule. The terms of the Barrier Act, which had just been passed, prevent the Synod adopting any general law in matters of discipline, without previous discussion by Presbyteries, and the approval of a majority of these. Our Foreign Mission in India was brought to an abrupt termination by the rebellion last year. The Synod resolved, however, to continue its efforts towards the evangelization of the heathen. If no definite plan of independent operation is arranged before January, the contributions for the ensuing year are to be equally divided between the Foreign Missions of the English, Scotch (Free), and Irish Presbyterian

Churches. The attention of the Synod was turned to the propriety of establishing a Mission to the North American Indians, and sending additional labourers to the Red River settlement, where Mr. Black has for several years laboured alone. Mr. McTavish of Thorah, and Eldon, was appointed a deputy to visit the scene of Mr. Black's labours this summer, and to prosecute inquiries respecting the Indians in that direction. Since the meeting of Synod we regret to learn that various matters prevent Mr. McTavish fulfilling the appointment. It is possible, however, that the Synod's Home Mission Committee may be able to find a suitable substitute. The last mentioned Committee gave in a very important Report showing a large number of charges and stations still unprovided for. The Report given by the Committee on statistics, though important and extensive, is still incomplete. We hope in a future number to be able to present it in full, along with other reports of general interest. The Sabbath Observance Committee reported continued agitation for Sabbath reformation, and favourable prospects of protective legislation, on behalf of Government employees on the Canals and in the Post Offices of this Province. We must not omit to notice an animated discussion on the question whether Converts from Romanism should be baptised. The subject was sent down to Presbyteries for reconsideration. The proceedings of the Synod occupied six complete days and were closed by a brief address by the Moderator. The next meeting is appointed to be held next year in Toronto on the second Tuesday in June.

Knox's Church Toronto.—We rejoice to learn that the Presbytery of Edinburgh, have agreed to the translation of the Rev. Mr. Topp, Edinburgh, to Knox's Church Toronto, and heartily congratulate this congregation on the prospect of their soon having an able and faithful minister amongst them. We give from the *Edinburgh Witness* the Proceedings of Presbytery on the occasion.

A meeting of the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh was held yesterday—Mr. Gillics, Moderator—for the purpose of considering the unanimous call which had been given to the Rev. Mr. Topp of Roxburgh Church by the large and influential congregation of Knox's Church Toronto. Dr. Bonar appeared for the Colonial Committee; Dr. Robert Buchanan, as a Commissioner of Knox's Church; for the Kirk-session of Roxburgh Church, Rev. Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. Paterson; and for the congregation, Mr. Williamson and Mr. McNab. A number of Mr. Topp's congregation were present.

Dr. Bonar and Dr. Buchanan, in arguing in favour of the translation, referred to the importance of Toronto; to the wide sphere of usefulness which a person called to the pastorate of such an influential congregation as Knox's Church had before him, and to the qualifications which Mr. Topp possessed for filling that responsible post to the satisfaction of all. Mr. Topp (said Dr. Buchanan) was a man of high character, of great gifts, and of large experience, which fitted him for a far larger sphere than that which he now occupied.

The representatives of the Kirk-session and