

that, in the Providence of God, and by the special influences of the Spirit, difficulties may be removed, and a way opened for an honorable and lasting union.

Another most interesting subject occupied a prominent place at our recent meeting of Synod. We refer to the matter of Foreign Missions. We have much destitution at home, and have room for many faithful laborers within our own borders. But we are assured that we should not be impoverished by sending one or two, even of our best and most promising men—to the heathen field. The Lord is able to give us much more than this. We cannot but regard it as a token for good, that we have been thus led to recognize, more than we have ever done, the claims of the heathen. May the Committee charged with the oversight of this important matter, be blessed with a large measure of wisdom and zeal combined, and may they be guided by the Lord in every step which they may take.

We notice, in conclusion, the spirited determination of the Synod to take steps forthwith for the erection of suitable buildings for Knox's College. The necessity of procuring such buildings occurred to not a few individuals in different localities, and it appeared that there could be no time so suitable as the present for making a vigorous effort. The Synod accordingly have resolved to proceed forthwith to raise a fund for this purpose. We feel assured a spirited response will be given to this call. Our people, through God's blessing, have the means in their hand, and we are sure these means will not be withheld from an object so intimately connected with the very existence of this Church. During the past year, the ordinary College Fund has been well sustained—so well, that the Synod, in a commendable spirit of self-reliance, or rather reliance on Him whose are the silver and the gold, have resolved not to seek the continuance of aid from Scotland, which for years past has been kindly granted. We feel assured the hopes of the Synod will not be disappointed, but that even greater liberality will be manifested by our people in the support of this important Institution.

THE PRESENT CRISIS IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY.

A most important crisis has at present taken place in our political history. After a very brief session, if it can be called a session at all, the Ministry were defeated, and Parliament was forthwith prorogued with a view to an immediate dissolution and a general election. It is believed that the general election will take place in the course of perhaps a few weeks. It becomes all the real friends of our country to ponder well their duty, and to look for representatives who may be trusted,—men of principle, men of wisdom, men above selfish and mere party interests,—if possible, men who fear God and hate covetousness. We have no wish to take part in any merely political struggle, but a sense of duty impels us earnestly to urge on our readers the importance of weighing well their responsibility at such a time as this. Few, we fear, think much of their solemn responsibility for the manner in

which they exercise their civil and political rights. But yet there is a solemn responsibility in this matter, especially at this present time, when interests so deeply affecting the future welfare and happiness of the Province are at stake. The right settlement of the Clergy Reserves,—and what we mean by a right settlement has been distinctly enunciated by the Synod,—the due recognition of the Sabbath in the various public departments,—the restriction, or rather abolition of that moral pest, the traffic in intoxicating drinks,—and a consistent resistance to the growing encroachments of Popery,—these are questions which should be kept in view by the electors when looking out for men to represent them in Parliament. We have neither time nor space to write more on this important matter, but we entreat our readers to think well of their duty; and we earnestly pray that God, the Governor among the nations, who can turn the hearts of men like rivers of water, may order the issue so as to promote His own glory, and advance the interests of true religion and freedom in our land.

COLLECTION FOR THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

We beg to remind Ministers, Sessions, and Congregations, that the Annual Collection in aid of the French Canadian Missionary Society is appointed by the Synod to be made on the third Sabbath of July. This Society is engaged in a great and important work; its agencies have lately been extended, and God has not withheld the seal of his approbation and blessing. This mission has for its object the spiritual enlightenment of our own fellow-subjects and fellow-countrymen. Its success must tend directly to promote the real interests of the Province in every point of view. Let then our Congregations make a prompt and liberal response to this call: let no Congregation withhold its contribution, but let all unite their energies and prayers for the removal of spiritual blindness, and the diffusion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its purity and power.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY OF CANADA.—This Society held its annual meeting on the evening of the 21st inst., in St. Lawrence Hall, Toronto, Dr. Willis in the chair. The meeting was a very large and respectable one, and, after the reading of the Report, by Mr. Henning, passed, unanimously, the resolutions which were successively moved and supported by Dr. Burns, Frederick Douglas, Esq., John Scoble, Esq., Peter Brown, Esq., James Shaw, Esq., and others.

A Ladies' Bazaar was held the same day and next day, of which the proceeds are to be devoted to the support of Frederick Douglas' newspaper—(a Rochester weekly)—a paper specially devoted to the cause of the African race.

NIAGARA.—The annual meeting of the congregation of Niagara was held on May 25, 1854, when a new Committee of Management was elected for the ensuing year. On the presentation of the financial statistics for the past year,

a balance of £20 16s. 7d. appeared in favor of the congregation, after meeting all expenses, which have been much heavier than usual during the past year. This sum it was unanimously agreed to present to their pastor, as a "token of affection and esteem." Notwithstanding many removals, this congregation continues to prosper, and we trust that, under God's blessing, now that the old town is rising, phoenix-like, from its ashes, and experiencing a revival of commercial prosperity, it will be found lengthening its cords, and strengthening its stakes, and above all, increasing in spirituality and devotedness in the service of the Lord.—*Com.*

HENRY ESSON BURSARY.

We have much gratification in stating, that a bursary, of the value of £5 annually, has been founded by Mrs. Spark, of Craigie Park, Aberdeen, and Mrs. E-son, widow of the late Professor E-son, to aid in the support of a candidate for the ministry, who is pursuing his studies at Knox's College. The bursary is to be in the gift of the Session of St. Gabriel street Church, Montreal; and failing any student from that congregation, they are authorized to admit any other student at Knox's College, whom they shall deem deserving of the aid.

It is to be called the "Henry Esson Bursary." By this act of liberality on the part of the widow and sister of our late esteemed Professor, the name and memory of Mr. E-son will be associated with the congregation of which he was so long pastor, and the College with which he was identified from its very commencement.

The bursary has been awarded by the Kirk Session to a highly deserving student from the St. Gabriel street congregation.

REV. JOHN McTAVISH.—We are happy to announce that Mr. McTavish has arrived in the country, and has intimated his purpose to close with the call sent to him from Thorah and Eldon. A special meeting of the Presbytery of Toronto is to be held on Wednesday, 5th current, for the purpose of making arrangements for the induction of Mr. McTavish.

ROBBERY AND RESTITUTION. By David Inglis, Minister of the Gospel, Montreal.

This is an excellent little tract by the pastor of St. Gabriel street Church, Montreal, on the nature and effects of sin on the one hand, and the nature and results of the work of Christ on the other. It is written in an earnest, impressive and affectionate manner, and we heartily recommend it to our readers. It is well adapted for Bible classes, and the young generally.

SCOTLAND.

CENSUS RETURNS ON RELIGIOUS WORSHIP AND EDUCATION.

The official returns regarding religious worship and education have now been published, but without the historical explanations of the different denominations, and without the fullness of detail which characterized the report of England and Wales.

1.—RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

So far as can be ascertained, there are 3395 places of worship, and 1,834,805 sittings; the proportion of sittings to the population being 63.5 per cent; while in England it is 57 per cent.