

faithful and laborious clerk will take care to furnish ministers with copies sufficient for supplying one to at least every elder and trustee, or deacon, in their several congregations. The sketch of the proceedings which we are now to supply, is taken from a few notes, and so we cannot pledge ourselves to perfect accuracy in all our statements. There are 53 ministers on the roll of the Synod: of these, there were only 25 in attendance—obviously on account of the great expense of travelling to a place so remote as Montreal is from the residence of the greater number of the ministers in the Upper Province. Of the 13 ministers in the Lower Province there were 10 present; from the Midland and Niagara districts 1 each; from the Eastern, Johnstown and Gore districts 2 each; from the Home district 3; and from the Bathurst district 4. Our friends in Britain may estimate the sacrifices which must be made on such occasions, from the fact that Niagara and some of the places within the bounds of the Toronto Presbytery, are 400 miles from Montreal. Of elders in attendance, there were only 8—3 from the upper and 5 from the lower Province. The urgent claims of the harvest, we know, prevented some from being with us on the present occasion.

Dr. Cook of Quebec was elected Moderator. As he has been only a short time among us, some, like ourselves, we believe, gave only a reluctant consent to his election; but, at the close of the business, we came to look upon that act as one of the most auspicious, which the Synod had done, as the Doctor's mild, firm and ministerial-like deportment, and the zeal with which he entered into all the proceedings and urged them to a conclusion, materially contributed to good order and despatch. Of Mr. Gale the Clerk, and Mr. Mowat the Treasurer, if we were writing a formal review of the proceedings, we would also speak in terms of un-mixed commendation.

A larger portion of time was every day devoted to public religious exercises than at any former period. But they who rightly estimate the relation which subsists between prayer and every department of ministerial work, will see that the hours of business in a church court may often be very profitably diminished by lengthened exercises of devotion.

The subject of Sabbath profanation was brought before the Synod, through the reports of presbyteries; and the urgent need which exists for open testimony against this sin was felt the more vividly by all the members when they read in handbills on the walls in Montreal, advertisements of "PLEA-

SURE TRIPS" by steamboats on the Lord's day. The Moderator was appointed to prepare an address on this subject to the members of the church, and certain instructions to sessions, were agreed on. The admission into the church, of licentiates and ministers of the Synod of Ulster was brought forward by the presbytery of Toronto; and we are happy to have it in our power to intimate to our congregations, that the Synod, *without one dissenting voice*, agreed to this important measure. The movements of the general assembly at home towards that respectable body, and the urgent need of labourers in these provinces, silenced opposition. To the actual admission of such ministers and licentiates, they must produce extracts of ordination and license, certificates of having subscribed the confession of faith, certificates from presbyteries as to their good standing up to the time of their leaving Ireland—if they have done so within twelve months from the date of applying to presbyteries, and in the event of their having been absent from it for a longer period, they must afford other satisfactory evidence of their good standing, and finally, they must subscribe the formula of this church. Our Moderator is to communicate this resolution to Dr. Cooke of Belfast, for the information of the Synod of Ulster. We cordially congratulate the members of our church of Irish origin on this important measure. We trust, that the additions to the ministry, that we may receive from their beloved isle, will enable us more effectually to meet the spiritual destitution that prevails to such a mournful extent around us.

The subject of presbyterial visitations was taken into consideration, on the appeal of a member of the presbytery of Toronto against a decision of that presbytery for the adoption of a scheme of presbyterial visitations, being a modification of that which is laid down in acts of the General Assembly. The Synod dismissed the appeal on account of informality, and enjoined this presbytery to suspend for the present, *ordinary visitations*, and to report to next Synod on the expediency of having such visitations in the church, and, if they be deemed expedient, on the best mode of conducting them.

Another subject of still higher importance than any of these engaged much of the attention of the Synod. This matter was brought up first, by an overture made from the presbytery of Toronto for increased exertions towards the establishment of an institution for theological education, and for increased encouragement and direction to those who are studying for the ministry; and secondly, by a report of the presbytery of