

confusion. Each record of the Synod Minutes is complete in itself, and it would be most ungracious to deny the ability and care shown by the various Synod clerks, but no attempt has ever yet been made to prepare a digest of them, so that an approach to codification could be made. Were the judgments of the Synod on each subject on which decisions have been rendered, brought into juxtaposition, so that the utterances of the Church at different times could be compared, there might be a hope that at some future period, the unfortunate enquirer would, without the helpless feeling of imbecility and bewilderment which now overcomes him, be enabled to search in the records of the doings of the Church to ascertain the interpretation of the laws by which he is supposed to be governed. It is vain to expect that any individual member will undertake to produce from this chaos a symmetrical arrangement, to digest this *rudis indigestaque moles*. It is a work which must be undertaken by the Synod, and one which will take some time to do. It is indeed possible that if a sum sufficient to meet expenses, and to secure any one from loss who would enter upon the labour, were guaranteed by the Church, some one might be found who would take up the task, but it would be difficult to find any of our ministers able to devote the time necessary for the purpose, and it would be no easy matter to select a Committee. Yet an attempt must be made, and it is to be hoped that the Synod shortly to meet, will not separate without at least taking this subject into consideration. There are many very important points upon which we are left in doubt; there are matters of some consequence on which each man acts on his own notions, with no proper care as to the right or wrong of the matter, too often mere personal convenience being consulted, rather than what is according to law and order. It is evident that something is wanting to make us work more earnestly together. That is the evil. What is its cause? How shall we find a remedy? To the confusion which now exists may probably be attributed, among other causes, the fact that we are so divided, and that the behests of the Supreme Court are so little regarded. Possibly a solution of our difficulties may be found at the Synod, for we must confess that we are to some extent groping in the dark. May the Spirit guide all the deliberations of the Synod, in all things, and may much good result

to the country at large, as well as to our own people by the decisions to which it shall arrive.

ON the first Wednesday of June the Synod of our Church will meet in Montreal, and as there will most probably be very important business brought up for discussion, it is to be hoped that all who can possibly be present will attend. The presence of the ruling elders is most desirable, and it is by no means creditable to congregations that so few representatives have in past years assisted in the deliberations of the highest court of our Church, deliberations which cannot fail to have an important bearing on the prosperity of every charge within the bounds of Synod. It would be as foolish as it would be wrong to attribute this to apathy on the part of the representative elders and ministers. The great proportion of those who fill the office are not in a position to expend a large sum in travelling expenses, besides giving their time at a season when it is most valuable. It is most unjust in itself to tax still further those who already give their care, thoughts, and their counsel to the congregation, and upon whom the burden and labour of providing ordinances is cast, by compelling them, when they go to advocate the claims, or watch over the interests of those whom they represent to pay out of their own private pockets, a sum which should be raised by the contributions of every member of the congregation. We trust the people will think of this, and that each charge will be represented—the expenses of the minister and representative elder being paid cheerfully and ungrudgingly. Arrangements have been made for the reception of the members of Synod here, so that all will be entertained free of charge to themselves.

FROM the interest excited by the reported death of Dr. Livingstone, the intrepid missionary and explorer in Africa, the short biography which will be found in this number, will, it is believed, be read with interest. Notwithstanding the detailed account of his death, as nar-