

cause of the common Master. Thank God! many of our congregations are models of peace and love and energetic well-doing.—Still there is room for improvement even with the best; and there is urgent need of improvement on the part of the majority.

2. But the duty of congregations does not end with themselves. Every congregation owes something to every other. No church, no congregation, liveth for itself. Any attempt to do so, ends in disaster, if not in moral death. The PRESBYTERY is over us in the Lord. Every minister, elder and member owes allegiance to the Presbytery as surely as he does to the individual congregation with which he is connected. We fear that this principle, theoretically acknowledged, is not practically felt in all its vast importance.

Our Presbytery meetings are not watched with that general interest which they deserve. They are regarded as mere business conferences, stiff, cold and formal, and the popular element is awanting. Or, still worse, they are looked upon in some quarters as the arena where "cases" of a disagreeable character occupy most of the time. Presbyterianism does not get fair play till our Presbytery meetings become of such a character as to attract the kindly and intelligent interest of all the congregations within the bounds—till *people* as well as ministers and elders feel that there is something which concerns *them*. In the "good time coming" Presbyteries will be compact, will meet often and regularly, will have ample time for preaching and prayer.—Every minister within the bounds will be able and willing to be punctual in attendance, and the places of the representative elders will not be vacant. The congregations will know when and where the meetings are to be held. They will cheerfully pay the expenses of their ministers and elders in attending meetings of Presbytery, and they will be eager to have those meetings among themselves. Nothing will be more refreshing, more welcome to a congregation than a Presbyterial Visitation.—Congregations will be intimately acquainted with each other, and will be ready to extend a helping hand wherever there is need.

The advice and the decisions of Presbytery will be regarded as deserving of the highest deference and respect.

3. But there is a court beyond the Presbytery to which we owe allegiance—the SYNOD. As sessions and congregations are responsible to the Presbytery so the Presbytery is responsible to the Synod. In our church this is the Supreme Court from whose decisions there is no earthly appeal. It meets but once a year, and continues its session seven or eight days. Everything done in every Presbytery is here passed under review; and whatever has not been done "decently and in order" is noted, and if possible, rectified. It is the Synod that concerts and controls our missionary operations at home and abroad, that has charge of our college, that decides any cases which the Presbyteries may send up for review. The prosperity of the church depends very largely on the action taken from year to year by the Synod.—There is not a congregation so wealthy or so poor, so dependent or so self-contained, as not to be affected more or less by what the Synod does or refrains from doing.

Every member of the church should therefore be perfectly familiar with the proceedings of the Synod. It is our representative assembly, our parliament, dealing with interests of far greater importance than any that relate merely to this life. As Presbyterians we rejoice in the fact that our church order is founded in God's word,—that our courts—our Presbyteries and Synods are open to all who choose to attend upon their deliberations and discussions,—that all ministers and elders, the representatives of the poorest as well as of the wealthiest churches stand there on a footing of equality.

In view of the meeting of Synod in St. John during the present month, we need scarcely urge on our readers the great call for preparation and prayer. Interests of transcendent importance have to be dealt with. The grand object of the meeting is the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. To this our operations as congregations, Presbyteries and Synods must tend, or else they miss their proper object. The