

Address of the Rev. Peter Keay,
Moderator,

DELIVERED AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING
OF THE SYNOD OF NEW BRUNSWICK,
RECENTLY HELD AT FREDERICTON.

Rev. Fathers and Brethren.—

With reluctance do I discharge the duty of closing our most happy and prosperous meeting of Synod, and saying farewell for the present. In your kindness you raised me to the honor of the chair I now occupy. I beg to thank you for the honor you have done me, and for the kind counsel with which you supported my want of experience in the duties to be discharged; and I request your forgiveness for the deficiencies and errors which may have occurred while I have presided over your meetings.

How refreshing and cheering must we all have felt our proceedings to have been! By the blessing of God, we have had to bear testimony to a most gratifying measure of prosperity on our plans and endeavours for the good of the cause of Jesus Christ among us, during the past year. There has been a waking up, as has been this evening said: but not in one station or another only, not on one river or another only, but in all our places and connections. The Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland have shown their kind remembrance of us and their Christian concern for our prosperity, in supplying so effectually the ministerial wants of two of our waste places. We have had the high satisfaction of a reported increase in the number of our Sabbath Schools, and the numbers that attend them. We record with delight and gratitude, that, of our small number, no fewer than four Sabbath Schools have undertaken to defray the expenses of training up four Hindoo Orphan girls.—each taking one under its care,—in the knowledge of the one living God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent.

The adoption by this Synod of the overture in favor of the Canadian Jewish Mission, is a new and gratifying feature in our business this year. Salvation has come to us through the Jews; and the gathering in of the fullness of the Gentiles is connected in prophecy with the conversion of the outcasts of Israel. Feeling grateful that, in the good providence of God, a favourable opportunity has been presented to us of engaging in this sacred cause, let us faithfully embrace it; and may our endeavours in its behalf be so blessed, that we shall be able to report at our meeting next year, that our congregations have with great pleasure and liberality given of their means to carry on the good work. From no part of our deliberations, however, will a greater blessing be received, than from the carrying out of the recommendations of the Synod to prevent Sabbath desecration. Earnestly let us urge this on the attention of all with whom we have influence, that efforts as widely spread and at the same time as

united as possible may be put forth to secure those most precious blessings which honored Sabbaths will ever secure. We shall do well to endeavour to associate ourselves as favourably as we can with the Synod of Canada in the establishment of a fund for the benefit of the widows and orphans of deceased ministers in this Province. It is at once felt by every one to be well calculated to strengthen the bonds of attachment which unite pastors and people, and to aid and cheer the former in their duties, to know that their people take an affectionate interest in the welfare of those dependent on them. May this be as favourably received and reported as it has been in the Synod of Canada.

Not more in accordance with the precedent of last year, than in gratitude to those Synods who have honored us with representatives, and in justice to these reverend gentlemen themselves, do we make most grateful mention of their presence and Co-operation. We have done much for the welfare of our Church at this meeting of Synod: and the success of our deliberations has been greatly increased by the valuable aid of Rev. Dr. Barclay, whose intimate acquaintance with the laws and forms of the Presbyterian Church, and perfect knowledge of the transactions of the Church in Canada so courteously and fully placed at our service, and whose warm concern in all measures proposed for our good, demand the very grateful acknowledgements of this Synod. The indisposition of the Rev. Mr. Lunan, has unfortunately deprived us of much of his valued company and counsel.

From the pleasure and the advantage we have received at this time, few as our numbers and short as our companionship have been, how fondly must we cherish the hope, that the difficulties in the way of our forming part of one most venerable General Assembly of our Church in the British Provinces, may yet be cleared away, and that we, who now sit so few in Synod, shall at no very distant date bid joyous welcome to one another, and our beloved brethren from the neighbouring provinces, as members of the supreme and most revered court of our Zion.

We must now return, reverend fathers and brethren, each to his own home and flock, may you be preserved and prospered as you return; and may the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, strengthening you to prove the invigorating effects which such meetings as we have had the privilege to enjoy, are formed and fitted to produce.

[To the Editor of the Monthly Record.]

NEW-AMSTERDAM, BERDICE,
1st August, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Since I wrote you last, I have been favored with a copy of your periodical,

for May, and I am delighted to find in its pages so many indications of the increasing prosperity of our Church in your department of the vineyard.

According to promise, I again sit down to put together a few hasty reflections and observations relating to the circumstances and position of our Zion in this remote and distant locality. As I mentioned in a former communication, we have no less than nine different congregations here, which are all at present supplied with active and efficient pastors, although one of our Clergymen has recently gone home on leave of absence, after the long period of seventeen years' service in this climate, so trying to the constitutions of Europeans. It is a great mistake to suppose that our Ministers here can sit down quietly at their ease and feast themselves with abundance of leisure. The ancient idea of a Scotch parochial parson visiting the laird on equal terms, preaching his one sermon a Sabbath, enjoying his *otium cum dig.* all the week, and, except incidentally, seeing or visiting his flock only once or twice a year, cannot be carried out here, more than in the stirring colony of Nova-Scotia, where there are so many rival sects contending for the mastery, and where the Clergy of an inactive and lukewarm Church can never hope to maintain a footing. Generally speaking, most of our Ministers have very large parishes, and more than one Church to attend to. My own parish extends about twenty miles or upwards along the east bank of the Berbieco river, and I can only work it with any degree of efficiency by employing not only a horse and waggon, but also a boat for navigating the river, and conveying me to villages and localities otherwise inaccessible. Nor am I the only laborer in this wide field of duty. Parts of it are also cultivated by Missionaries connected with the London Society, who have been very successful in their efforts among the people, who would otherwise, in times gone by, have been without any religious ordinances. Instead, however, of regarding them as rivals, I have every wish to view them as fellow workmen employed by the same great Master-Build-er. In the district assigned me, the work would prove too arduous for the energies of one man; and although I could have wished rather that the parish had been subdivided, or made into two districts, with a Minister of our own Church in each, which might at one time have been accomplished without much difficulty, I am content, in the mean time, to take things as I find them, having, at present, the religious interests of some six or eight hundred people strongly attached to our Church, to attend to.

In addition to the more especial duties of their calling, our Ministers here have various public functions to perform, arising from the necessities of the Colony. In every parish there is a number of parties resident in the district, nominated by Government to act as members of *vestry*, whose