

Origin of the Synod, has contained abusive attacks upon us." There's for you, friend, with all your parental regard and watchfulness, for that precious bantling of yours! "Abusive attacks!" Sir, it's a gross misrepresentation, the effect if not the design of which, is to awaken the impression that the direst hostility actuates your Synod. And then it is alleged that the effect of the unprecedented accessions you have received to the number of your Ministers, have led you to hold your heads in a higher position. Well, if ever a body of men few and scattered, and struggling with the most formidable difficulties that ever beset a Church, had occasion to lift their heads—not in pride or disdain, but in gratitude and praise to the great Head of the Church—it is the body to which you belong. This is a matter of special rejoicing, and the second deputation promised to regard it as such. But it seems the Editor of the *Instructor* has at length arrived at the conclusion which he owes might have been come to before, that any union with you is unpracticable. "So long as two rotten planks of the old establishment hold together in the mother country." That's pretty language—smacking nothing of abuse—to come from him after the fine things spouted to your Synod, in praise of the venerable Church of Scotland. Nevertheless, it appears that your disconnection from the other Presbyterian bodies may terminate when you feel the pressure of their united influence; but, mark you, this cannot be, according to the Editor's conclusion, so long as the old Establishment has two rotten planks to keep it together. Providence—a special, guiding, overruling Providence, which he illustrates so singularly—may yet deceive him.

Last Wednesday, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, closed its eleventh Session. It met at Montreal—beyond the limits of the country to which it belongs—a fact alike significant and instructive, showing that science owns no political boundaries, and that the votaries of science are a great brotherhood, all the world over. The ablest men of the continent, and some from the parent country, were present in great numbers, to compare their notes and views, on that interesting occasion. Many very valuable papers were read and discussed, on the most important subjects. The session continued eight days. Every thing was done by the Corporation and Citizens of Montreal, in the way of accommodation and entertainment, to render their sojourn comfortable and pleasant. The members from the States, who appeared in great force, were all amazingly gratified. Canada, in the persons of Logan, Wilson, Dawson and others, was represented to great advantage. They showed, as was never done before, the exhaustless materials of this noble Province, for the illustration and advancement of science.

The Rev. J. B. Mowat, Minister of our Church at Niagara, has been chosen from a list of seven candidates to fill the vacant Chair of Hebrew, Church History and Biblical Criticism, in Queen's College.

Since I wrote you last, two more of our Ministers have gone to give an account of their stewardship to the Head of the Church—one of them aged, the other young, active and faithful. During the last few years, the mortality among our Clergymen has been very great. The Colonial Committee are now directing their attention to our wants. The appointment of three Missionaries for the Presbytery of Montreal, has been announced. Truly the present Committee are writing their names in the Colonial history of our Church. Three Inductions have lately taken place in this Province, and more are in progress. August 21th, 1857.

Professor George's Report

OF HIS MISSION TO THE SYNOD OF NOVA SCOTIA, IN THE SUMMER OF 1856.

Soon after the close of our Session of Synod

of last year, I proceeded to the Lower Provinces, to discharge the mission to which you had appointed me.

After meeting in private with various Brethren of the Synod of Nova Scotia, I went to Pictou, at which place the Synod met on the 3rd of July. I need scarcely say, that, as your Deputy, I was received with great kindness, and was invited to sit and take part in the deliberations of the Court. I shall ever look back to the meeting of this Ecclesiastical Court with no ordinary satisfaction. It is well known that our Brethren, in this portion of the Church, have had extraordinary difficulties to encounter ever since the unhappy Secession in 1844. It is true, that when they met in Pictou in July last, the state of things had very much improved. Still, from the small number of ministers in the field, those engaged in the work were not only oppressed with excessive labour, but were sorely perplexed in looking at their future prospects; yet, it was to me exceedingly cheering, and not a little instructive, to see the energy and zeal with which they entered on the business of the Church. Indeed, one could not help thinking, that men who could labour as these men were doing, and, as it were, hoping against hope, could not fail in the end to build up the cause of Christ. I am free to say, that I have never seen in any Church Court a finer manifestation of earnest-heartedness, wise charity, and oneness of spirit. Every man indeed seemed to feel that he was there to do business, and that the business to be done was the advancement of the Saviour's glory in the salvation of souls. Hence, I could not but notice with interest, that while the Synod was to some extent occupied in making new laws for the regulation of its affairs, the great anxiety, nevertheless, was to see how far the laws already made had been carried into effect in the schemes of the Church and in the management of the various congregations. It was indeed highly gratifying to observe, that our brethren did not appear satisfied that they had passed good resolutions, unless they found that these had been reduced to practice. It is needless to say, that a body of church rulers acting in this way will have schemes fruitful of good, because thoroughly wrought, and rigorously supervised, as well as wisely planned. I found all this to be so in the Synod of Nova Scotia. I cannot go into details; nor is this needful; but I am sure you will be pleased to learn that their scheme for aiding young men studying for the ministry has been carried on for a number of years with great zeal, and has been sustained with very commendable liberality. There appears indeed to be a deep conviction, among the people as well as the clergymen of the Synod, that the sorest and most indispensable of all wants is the want of a gospel ministry.

I remained about a month within the bounds of the Synod, and during that time I not only visited several congregations in Nova Scotia, but also congregations in Prince Edward Island. It was cheering to witness in the Island, as well as on the main land, the multitudes that came together to attend on divine worship. Yet the large church, crowded with people, is by no means the most interesting part of the spectacle you witness. It has never been my privilege to address more devout and earnest worshippers than I addressed on these solemn occasions. As a stranger can only see the surface of things, he can judge but imperfectly; yet, justice as well as charity will surely warrant the inference, that there is within the bounds of the Synod of Nova Scotia a large portion of earnest piety. Not only appearances, which are very pleasing, but substantial fruits,

give very decisive evidence of this. Although I have travelled a great deal on this Continent yet I have been in no part of America in which I have found the best points of Scottish character so entire as in the Lower Provinces. You see there the same love of gospel ordinances, the same becoming respect for the clerical office, and simplicity of mind which have been long prominent characteristics of Scotchmen at home. Apart from the ability, untiring labour and devoted zeal of their ministers, I stop not to enquire into the cause of this state of things among the people, but I am sure you will join me when I say,—may God in mercy grant us, it may ever continue! For assuredly, in the healthy piety of a church, we must ever look for the real strength, peace and efficiency of that church.

It is known, I presume, to the members of this Court, that our Brethren of Nova Scotia have since last year received a great accession to their numbers. The pleasure when our intelligence has afforded will be greatly enhanced by learning, that the preachers sent out from home are men every way admirably fitted to be efficient labourers in the colonial field. For although I had not the pleasure of seeing any of these missionaries, yet I can, on the most reliable authority, speak of their high worth. Now, while we heartily rejoice with our Brethren in their increase of clerical labourers, yet it might be well for ourselves to keep in mind how wisely and zealously we have employed all means for the obtaining of this; but especially that most powerful of all means—earnest and believing prayer. For I cannot but think, that while Church Courts were pleading with the Colonial Committee, and their able Commissioner was pleading energetically with the students and preachers in Scotland, there were many obscure but good souls who had long mourned over the desolations of their Zion, who were wrestling in secret with God, that he would send men after his own heart to break among them the bread of life.

I have to state, with extreme regret, that I was not able to remain so long in the Lower Provinces as to attend the meeting of the Synod of New Brunswick. With the excellent brother who represented that Synod at Pictou, I had much pleasant and profitable conversation. And I have the best reasons for thinking that fraternal intercourse with us is as much desired by the Church of New Brunswick, as by the Synod of Nova Scotia. Indeed, the part that have taken in this matter hitherto, not to speak of what you heard from the lips of their worthy Deputy last year, places this beyond question.

If the time he not just come, for an organ union into one General Assembly, of all the branches of the Church of Scotland in British North America, yet the consummation of this grand event is what our Brethren in the Lower Provinces look forward to with as ardent desires as this Synod has ever done. Whatever, therefore, of good, and that may not be little, which our present fraternal fellowship may yield, still it should only be regarded as preparatory to that more complete union—a one General Assembly. Nor can I entertain a doubt, that if we are faithful to our Lord, the day will come when the different sections of the Church of Scotland shall not only hold fellowship, for mutual counsel and brotherly love, but meet as one body, by their representatives, for the management of the affairs of a Church which shall extend through all parts of British North America; and which, if united, may be mightily instrumental in exte-