

THE SYDNEY PRESBYTERY

Referred the case of Leitch's Creek to the Synod. After discussion the validity of the Reference was sustained. After prolonged discussion the following resolution moved by Professor Macknight, and seconded by Rev. D. McRae, became the unanimous decision of the Court, and was carried out accordingly :

"That the Synod find that Mr. Maclean has used on several occasions incautious and unministerial language, and admonish him to be more careful of his speech in the future, and renew the recommendation of the Presbytery of Sydney to Mr. Maclean and his congregation, that all parties should cultivate the things that make for peace."

Other difficulties were amicably settled.

The next ordinary meeting of the Synod will be held in St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, on the first Tuesday of October, 1876, and at 7.30 o'clock.

The proceedings at St. John were brought to a solemn close at a few minutes past 10 o'clock on Friday night.

During the last day and a half, Rev. R. Sedgwick being unavoidably absent, the chair was occupied by Rev. Dr. McCulloch. Rev. Dr. Waters was detained through illness in Ontario, and arrived a few minutes before the close of the last sederunt, much improved in health. All who attended the Synod speak very warmly of the hospitality of the people of St. John. The attendance at the late meeting of the Synod was not very large. There was but one representation of the Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond, and one of the Presbytery of Lunenburg and Yarmouth. There were fewer Elders than usual present.

MODERATOR'S SERMON.

The following brief outline of the Moderator's sermon will be welcomed by the readers of the RECORD :

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." The preacher said:—It would seem at first sight that there is some mistake here. The text contains an exhortation to cast off the works of darkness. Such work requires daylight, but the text conveys the idea of night, for the text says, not the day, but "the night is far spent."

There can be no doubt that the Apostle here uses the terms night and day in a sense altogether peculiar. Like one who watches from the mountain top the rising of the sun in a halo of glory, he exclaims "the night is far spent." As the similitude is, so is the reality; his imagination was the handmaid of his judgment, for the night of which he speaks is that night of sin which had covered the earth. But the thick cloud had been pierced, a new day was about to dawn, a new era in the history of the world was about to begin. So Paul reasoned and so he spoke "the night is far spent" let us then put on the armor of light. Were it not that the Bible is for all time, we might think he spoke with too much assurance when he said eighteen hundred years ago, "the night is far spent and the day is at hand." Might we not rather adopt the infidel saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" But let us remember again that the Bible is for all time, and we are certain of this that we are nearer the dawn than Paul was eighteen hundred years ago. We cannot say that the dial has gone back and we must be satisfied with the answer "the morning cometh."

The preacher then said that he had selected this text as a proper one for his sermon before the Synod, he trusted by the guidance of God. 1st. What are the indications that the "night is far spent?" Popular ignorance is everywhere lessening. Without going over the whole range of the world to prove this, every man could find examples of this truth in his own neighborhood. The children are better taught, the illiterate are less numerous. What is true of ourselves at home is true abroad from the centres of civilization to the distant savage islands of the Pacific. The missionary is there the schoolmaster. 2nd. Oppression and misrule are lessening everywhere. The arm of oppression is broken, unjust laws are being repealed, or if not repealed are becoming inoperative. This is so both as to the civil and criminal jurisprudence of enlightened nations. Besides, it is worthy of remark that even in barbarous and heathen lands similar changes are taking place. And, 3rd, Wars are ceasing to the ends of the earth. The nations are unlearning the art of war. It is a bold assertion to make, in view of the great improvements that have taken place in the art of war. But this very fact proves the assertion for the completeness of national defence and the perfection which the art of war has attained, will make nations chary of going to war. 4th. All lets and hinderances to the intercourse of nations are disappearing. Systems of protection and monopoly are dying out, intercourse is become rapid and certain. I