

## News of the Church.

The *Record* for August was wholly occupied with the MINUTES OF SYNOD. We trust that these have been carefully perused by our readers, and that the facts, decisions, and recommendations contained in them will be remembered and acted upon. The meeting of the Synod at St. John marked a happy era in the history of our church.—The attendance was large, every Presbytery being fairly represented. The number of elders present was satisfactory, considering the distance many of them had to travel.

The only "case" of any consequence before the Synod was that of the Chatham organ, which was in effect decided almost unanimously—after a full and most patient discussion. There are not probably three ministers in the Synod who would vote for the introduction of organs in present circumstances; and the vast majority regard the use of instrumental music in worship as unauthorized by scripture. Those who are unable to take this view come to the same practical conclusion on the ground of christian expediency. We trust that the controversy will now take end; and that the church will have internal peace while she addresses herself with all earnestness to the mighty work before her.

The union of the two Synods was a most delightful scene—a consummation anxiously hoped for by the most ardent friends of Presbyterianism in these Provinces. Our Zion is now truly and emphatically what her name imports, "The Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America." We trust that all the provinces will be benefited by the step taken. The field for Home Mission labour is vastly extended. New Brunswick alone would absorb scores of ministers and thousands of dollars. It is sad to think of the desolations to be witnessed in many sections of that noble country. Go up the St. John valley from the Suspension Bridge to Fredericton—to Woodstock—to the Grand Falls—to the Madawaska—and how many Presbyterian churches do you see in course of these three hundred miles? Not more

perhaps than one for every hundred miles you traverse! Is it not much the same on the Restigouche and the Miramichi?—Never was there a more inviting field for Home Mission work; and the union into which we have entered is a solemn pledge in the sight of God and men that we must arise to cultivate it. We neglect it at our proper peril. The work is great indeed but it is good to have something to do for our blessed Master.

It was extremely gratifying to find at the recent meeting of Synod that the sums contributed for missionary purposes were unusually large. It seems as if the church were realizing the magnitude of the work she has before her, as if God were beginning to pour out upon her the spirit of liberality and self-sacrifice.

Our present number contains the sermon preached by Rev. George Christie at the opening of the Synod. This discourse is published by request of Synod, and is deserving of most careful study. The motto of our church in the face of threatening heresies and dangerous changes must ever be, "prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

The attention of the Synod was pointedly called to the fact that the number of students at present in the Theological Hall is most unreasonably small, and holds out the poorest possible prospect of an adequate supply of ministers and missionaries. We should have at least four times as many students of the first and second years as we now have. How is this defect to be remedied? One cause of the fewness of students is unquestionably the inadequate support accorded by congregations to their ministers. We hope and believe that the first year's class this winter will be encouragingly numerous. Parents should be more ready to dedicate their sons to the work of the ministry, and young men should bear in mind that though preaching the gospel will never secure worldly wealth, there is no nobler work within the reach of man.

The Synod discussed solemnly and earnestly the subject of the better sustentation of the ministry. There were deplorable revelations made of thoughtlessness—must