

**A Short Account of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, lately held in Kingston, Ontario.**

The Synod lately held in Kingston, and which I attended constantly till within a day of its close, when I left for home, presented so many features of an interesting nature, that I determined to write an account of it, and in some form lay it before our people.—I had hoped to have been able to have brought it forward in the more regular way of a report to our Synod, but my engagements rendered this quite impossible. The present account in the pages of the *Record*, may serve the same purpose, and that more effectually.

The Synod met in Kingston, a fine town of about 23,000 inhabitants, situated at the lower extremity of Lake Ontario. This town is mostly built of the limestone of the district, has few wooden buildings; and, having been for some time the seat of government of both Canadas, boasts of a great many large public buildings. Being on the frontier, it is defended on the lake side by two martello towers, and a fort, second in strength only to Quebec and Halifax. While the town itself is clean and substantial, its situation, looking out upon one of those fresh-water oceans, which form one of the wonders of the world, and exempt Canada from the reproach of being called an inland country, renders it airy, cheerful and agreeable. Add to these that it is central, that our church has here a fine congregation and that here Queen's College has been planted, and you have circumstances combined, which render Kingston a suitable place for a meeting of our Canadian Synod.

The proceedings were opened by a sermon preached by Mr. MacLennan, the retiring Moderator. This gentleman is not wholly a stranger to us here, either by report or personally. During his presence with Principal Snodgrass last year, at our Synod in Charlottetown, many were struck with his remarkable wisdom as a church-adviser, his singular suavity of manner, and chaste eloquence.—These qualities were happily displayed on the present occasion, as he descanted in well selected and ornate sentences upon the requirements of the Christian Ministry in the present age. On the same evening a variety of routine business was disposed of as preliminary to real work, among which the adding of my own name to the roll as a correspondent and the elevation of Mr. Dobie to the Moderator's chair may be mentioned. One of the most singular proofs of the uncertainty of life, was the reading of the commission in favour of the late Dr. Henderson. It was unknown at the time that that distinguished ornament of our Maritime Synod, in point of learning, prudence, sweetness of disposition and true piety, had been translated from the courts of the Church on Earth to the General Assembly and Church of the first-born, in eternal glory. Man had destined him to an earthly honour

and work but Jesus Christ had relieved him from the toils of time, and clothed him with the robes of immortality. He had obeyed the call "Come up hither." There are few that we shall miss more than one so loved and so worthy.

One of the most interesting and important questions discussed, was introduced by the report of the delegates of last year to the Maritime Synod, and reviewed at the close of the Synod by the appearance of Messrs. Grant and Frazer,—namely, union in some form with the Maritime Synods. The special form which it was authorized to take was the desirableness and the practicability of a General Assembly. This is a matter liable to be misunderstood from the absence of such a body hitherto in the British Provinces.—People are liable to imagine it to be a chief court like our present chief courts, consisting of all ministers and elders; and hence to conceive of such an appendage as increasing travel, expense and trouble. The truth is, however that by Synods being made purely provincial, and ministers being members of the General Assembly only once in four or five years, far less trouble and expense may be incurred than under the present system. I do not now discuss but state the question. The rule in the Church of Scotland is that all presbyteries having 12 parishes and under, send two ministers and one elder; all having 18 send three ministers and two elders, and so on. There are, exclusive of chapel ministers, between 1100 and 1200 beneficed ministers in the Church of Scotland and of these there will be about 210 sent as commissioners to the General Assembly. Under the same rule the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would not require to send more than six ministers and three elders each year; The question was discussed with much cordiality and fairness. There seemed to be no hesitation as to the desirableness of such a measure. Mr. MacLennan spoke in most complimentary terms of our church and the advantage to the Canadian Synod of being united to us; while undoubtedly the advantage would be ours. Dr. Mathieson, Principal Snodgrass and Mr. Campbell of Montreal, took the same view. Dr. Cook viewed it as impracticable and launched forth into the question of a union of all Presbyterians. It was argued by some that the proposed measure would be beneficial and loyal as regards our own church and the most practical way of bringing about a general union of all presbyterians, if that were desired. At the close the Synod recorded its approbation of the measure, appointed an influential committee to correspond with us on the subject and to prepare a scheme for its accomplishment.

A question of great moment discussed was the state of the temporalities fund. This fund consists of about \$500,000 out of which a portion of the ministers receive \$443, another portion \$400 and the remaining number