

The Record.

TORONTO, JULY, 1860.

THE LATE MEETING OF SYNOD.

Our readers will find in another part of the *Record* an account of the proceedings of Synod. We have but little time to offer any remarks upon these proceedings. The meeting was a large one, there being 112 ministers and 58 elders present, and we have pleasure in stating that we have never seen the members continue in such regular and constant attendance, almost to the very last.

As at the preceding meeting, a large portion of the time of the Synod was occupied with discussions on the subject of Union. But though protracted, the discussions happily resulted in the maintenance of harmony among ourselves, a result for which it becometh us to thank God. We understand that an impression has gone abroad in some quarters, that obstacles have been put unnecessarily in the way of Union. But we do not believe that this is the case. There is now a pretty clear understanding of each others' position, and, we believe, confidence in each others' views and principles, and all that is required is simply the best and most unobjectionable mode of expressing the fact, that, having such confidence generally in each other, entire unanimity is not required in regard to all the applications of the principle expressed in the 11th article of the Basis. Our friends in the United Presbyterian Synod, having consented to remove the note which they originally appended to the article in question, added a few words to the article to the effect, that, in the application of the doctrine involved, mutual forbearance should be exercised. There appeared to be an awkwardness and a difficulty in admitting into a formal Basis of Union, such an undefined recognition of forbearance, and accordingly the Synod did not accept the proposed addition. But they were quite willing to consent to any less objectionable mode of accomplishing the intended object, and hence unanimously approved of certain resolutions which will be found in the proceedings of Synod, and which, if approved by the United Presbyterian Synod, will at once remove all difficulty. We are quite sanguine in regard to Union. It would be most miserable, if after having attained our present position in regard to the Basis of Union, we should not be able to accomplish the object desired. But we do not fear. We confidently trust that the matter will be adjusted, and that, if the Union shall not be consummated sooner, by summoning special meetings of the two Synods, it will be ac-

complished in Montreal, and that then at last, just as the two majestic rivers there commingle their waters, and roll on in power and might to the ocean the two Churches shall coalesce, and go on in their career of usefulness and love, dispensing blessings to this land, and exerting a mighty influence for truth and righteousness. But it is not unlikely that any existing difficulties may be sooner got over, and we know it is the strong desire of many that this year—the tricentenary of the Scottish Reformation—shall not pass over, without the Union being effected, or at least without all arrangements being made for its consummation.

Our readers will observe that a member of the Synod in connexion with the Church of Scotland, was present, and addressed the Synod on the desirableness of Union among all the Presbyterians of the Province, on the basis of the Westminster Standards. His address was well received. It is certainly most desirable that the Presbyterians of Canada should be united, without the compromise of principle. Let us earnestly hope and pray that the way may be prepared for so desirable a consumation.

Though the principal portion of the Synod's time was occupied with the question of Union, many other important topics were under discussion. To these however, we have not at present time to advert. We would only observe that the report on the State of Religion was very interesting, more especially in connexion with some statements which were made by members in regard to the work of God. We have not been altogether without tokens of the divine blessing and presence. May those tokens be multiplied a hundred fold, and may we have to tell not only of a spot here and there gladdened with the dew of heaven, like the fleece of Gideon, but may our Church, yea our entire land, be like a well watered garden, fragrant and fertile, that the glory of the Saviour may be promoted in the salvation of many souls.

COLLECTION FOR COLPORTAGE.

The Church has already been made aware, through a statement published on behalf of the Committee or Colportage in November last year, of the position in which that Committee has for some time been placed. While the scheme was in operation every little was done to aid it; and when the Committee felt constrained to bring their active operations to a close, they were involved in a heavy indebtedness for the salaries of colporteurs and had a large quantity of books on hand, which it was impossible for them to dispose of at the catalogue prices. Last year the Synod recommended that a

collection be taken up throughout the congregations, but only a very few responded to this recommendation. Meanwhile the Messrs. Nelson & Sons have intimated to the Convener, that unless the amount due to them is immediately paid, they will feel themselves constrained to recover it by a law suit.

The Synod at its recent meeting after taking the whole subject into consideration, appointed a general collection to be taken up on the third Sabbath of this month (July), on behalf of this scheme. We trust that there will be a general and liberal response to this call, and that this debt so long due may be speedily liquidated. The collections should be sent to the Rev. W. Reid, of Toronto.

D. INGLIS, Convener.

N. B. Ministers and others having books of the Committee still on hand are earnestly requested to dispose of them, on as favourable terms as they can, and to remit the money at their earliest convenience.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

SYNOD OF EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—The annual Synods of the Episcopal Church have recently met in Toronto and London. Most of the business before them was connected with their own internal affairs. We observe that in the Diocese of Huron there was expressed a want of confidence in the teaching and constitution of Trinity College. The Synod, however, with what seems to us a degree of inconsistency, passed a Resolution in favour of separate schools.

WATERDOWN AND WELLINGTON SQUARE.—We already noticed the harmonious expression of feeling towards the Rev. W. McIndoe, by the people of his former charge. We understand that they have given him a more substantial token of remembrance in the gift of a purse containing one hundred and fifty dollars.

THE CARDROSS CASE.—A decision may be expected very soon in this case, as by the last intelligence the case was being heard by the Court Session.

SYNOD OF NEW BRUNSWICK.—This Synod lately held its Annual Session in St. Johns. The business transacted, which was varied, we shall notice in our next issue. On the subject of Union with other Presbyterian bodies resolutions were passed, (only two members dissenting,) in favour of the Australian Basis of Union.

BRUCE.—We noted in last *Record* the induction of the Rev. A. McKay, at Bruce. The Rev. A. Currie preached and presided