

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

JUNE, 1871.

THE SYNOD.

The annual gathering of the ministers and representative elders of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces will be held (*D. V.*) this year in the city of St. John, and in St. David's church. The opening sermon will be preached at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 7 o'clock, on the last Wednesday of June, by the Moderator, Rev. R. Sedgwick, and all who can should so arrange their time and mode of travel as to be forward at the commencement. The first meeting should be hallowed and inspiring, and a full attendance has its effect, alike on the preaching and the devotion. Besides, the choice of a Moderator takes place during the first sederunt, and this is certainly one of the most important votes of the Session.

We are safe in assuming that the Church generally looks forward to this meeting with unusual interest. The Press connected with the Presbyterian cause in the Lower Provinces has been intensifying this interest by reminding its readers of the many important subjects sure to come up for discussion and disposal, and the very mention of the leading questions may well cause some anxiety respecting the path of duty, and not only may, but *ought* to, stimulate to earnest, wide-spread prayer for Divine direction.

First of all we shall have to deal with the great question of Union in its relation, first, to our Brethren of the Maritime Provinces, and next, in its relation to Presbyterians throughout the Dominion. This question will demand calm and searching inquiry, for the decision come to is likely

to be far-reaching and in every way influential on our future. Union is to be desired if sound in principle and the realization of the desires of our most earnest and spiritual people; but a mere ecclesiastical connection with a large and a distant body, involving increase of machinery and expense without corresponding increase of life and power should not be hastily determined. This whole question we hope to see approached with care, discussed with Christian spirit and forbearance, and decided with wisdom and unity.

This Union question will also have an important bearing on any proposal brought forward in connection with our Theological Hall. In reference to the filling up of Chairs or the perfecting of financial arrangements, the temptation to delay and wait the issue of pending negotiations will be strong, yet the reasons for pressing forward are numerous and urgent.

Our Missions will command attention; and the presence probably of two, and possibly of three missionaries, ready to go wherever they may be sent, will be a wonderful answer to prayer and special cause for gratitude to God.

Omitting any farther specification of particulars, we think it well to remind our Brethren of the Synod that the amount of business to be discussed and disposed of surpasses that of any former Synod, and it is therefore all the more necessary that the preparatory work should be attended to in good time. If the general directions of Synod are promptly followed business will be greatly facilitated.