

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

DECEMBER, 1870.

WE rejoice to see that a Presbytery, albeit it is of the other branch of the Church, has been formed in Manitoba—the first of the new Provinces which will arise in the fertile plains of our great Canadian North West. The Presbytery comprises three ministers, and has already taken steps to establish a college. It is to our shame as the elder branch of the Church that Presbyterianism is so weak there. Although nine-tenths of the English-speaking population are Scotch, but a fraction are Presbyterians. The Church of England has, to her credit be it said, cared for their spiritual interests when we did not, and now has a strong staff of clergymen there, including a Bishop and an Arch-deacon, both of Scottish birth, and both faithful men.

Our Synod appointed at last meeting a committee to ascertain whether with advantage a missionary could be sent to the Province, but we are inclined to believe that under present circumstances, in view of what we have stated, the field there is already fully occupied.

The population will, however, largely increase, and there will yet be room for us. But at present we think we ought not to go in unless sure of a territory which we can occupy without weakening the hands of the Presbyterian ministers now engaged in the work, and creating unnecessary divisions.

While on the subject we may remark that great misapprehension exists as to the character of the population of Manitoba. The impression has gone abroad that the people are chiefly French. This is a complete error. The majority, on the contrary, are largely Scotch. We are informed that the country is divided into parishes comprising populations of each origin, and that of these there are twelve Protestant and five Roman Catholic. We also see that Col. Dennis states in an official report, recently published, that the French half-breeds constitute about one-fourth, or one-fifth of the settlement.

Under these circumstances it is evident, in view of the large influx of settlement that will go into the Province, that the future of Manitoba will be mainly moulded by the influence of our common Protestantism.

In that future, we hope our Church will have its share, even if at present it should be found our duty to stand by and wait.

WE invite the attention of the ministers and office-bearers of the Church to the acknowledgments to be found in this issue for the General Sustentation Fund. The work has been well begun but is yet far from completion. What has been done by a portion of the Church *can* also be done by all the remaining congregations. Will those who have not yet contributed to this most important fund bear in mind that with them now rests the entire responsibility. There is no use of temporizing. It is in vain to say that next half year we may hope to do better. That were an utter delusion. Unless the required amount is received for *this* half-year, there is no reason to entertain the shadow of a hope that our people shall be one whit more able or willing six months hence. If there is any enthusiasm at all about the matter now, and we believe that in many quarters there is, it will be their wisdom to strike the iron while it is hot. The comfort and consequent usefulness of a large number of ministers of the Gospel is perilled upon the issue of the efforts now being put forth to equalize the supplement to confessedly inadequate stipends. The credit of the Church, moreover, is at stake. What more need we say?

WE are requested by the Chairman of the Ministers', Widows' and Orphan's Board, to call the attention of ministers, Kirk sessions and congregations to the injunction of the Synod requiring a collection to be taken up on the first Sunday in January, on behalf of this most interesting