

THE MISSIONARY REGISTER.

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

LORD, bless and pity us, shine on us with thy face,
That the earth thy way, and nations all, may know thy saving grace.—*Psalms lxxvii. 1, 2*

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MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF N. S.

This Church Court met on Wednesday last the 20th inst., at seven o'clock p. m., in Prince St. Church, Pictou, N. S. The Rev. Smith, retiring Moderator, preached on the occasion from Col. i. 18, first clause, "And he is the head of the body, the church." He began by saying—Correct opinions respecting the nature and the organization of the christian church, and of Christ's relation to that church, are usually regarded as points of co-ordinate importance with sound and correct views in Theology. After a few remarks in illustration and confirmation of this statement, and the announcement of the object which he had in view, he said he would endeavor, first, to delineate the true nature of the Church; secondly, consider the apostle's statement, that Christ is the head of the body, the Church; and thirdly, review the subject in some of its practical bearings. Under the first division of his subject, he remarked that the Church of God is a holy society gathered out of the world by the gospel call, and organized for high and holy purposes in the name of Christ. He considered the Church in its two-fold aspect, as visible and invisible; and combated some views which he regarded as erroneous. Under the second division, he remarked that Christ is the Head of the Church in a threefold

sense; He is the federal or covenant Head of the Church; He is the Head of life and influence; and he is the Head of power and authority. Each of these topics was suitably explained and illustrated. Under the last division of the subject, he stated that several questions arose respecting the relation in which civil government stands to the Church. First, the question of the Magistrate's power in the Church. He has none beyond what his position and influence as a member of it may give him. A second question, that of State support to the Church. He regarded such support as wrong in policy and principle. *The church is most successful and vigorous when relying upon her own resources.* Yet he was persuaded that in some instances the voluntary principle had been carried too far. Education had been assisted by the state within the church; for it is just as necessary to the one as to the other. A few practical remarks closed the discussion. It was characterized by the learned Doctor's usual excellence of matter and clearness of statement.

After prayer and praise, the Synod was constituted by the Moderator. The Roll having been read, the Moderator called for the Reports of Presbyteries, that it might be filled. Two demissions and two inductions have taken place