

# THE Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES

AUGUST, 1870.

## THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYNOD.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America met at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on the evening of Tuesday, the 28th June. The attendance was fully as large as usual, consisting of about one hundred and fifty members, including ministers, elders and corresponding members. The people of Charlottetown manifested a deep interest in the proceedings throughout. The Synod continued its sittings from Tuesday evening, the 28th June, till nearly 11 o'clock Wednesday night, the 6th July.

The earnest prayers of the Christian people throughout the bounds of our Synod were gloriously answered by our Divine Head. He sent down upon the Supreme Court of our Church the Spirit of peace, brotherly love, faith, and prayer. The proceedings were marked with that charity which thinketh no evil, and which carefully avoids to wound a brother. It was the most Christian-like Synod ever held in these Provinces.

There was a daily meeting for prayer at 7 o'clock in the morning, and the spirit of this morning exercise was manifest through the business of the day. These meetings were largely attended by members of Synod and others, and they were one of the most delightful features of our noble gathering.

For most of the members the Synod week is a week of very hard work. Meetings of Presbyteries, Committees, and Boards occupy every hour that can be

spared from the public meetings for Synodical work. From early morning till late at night the mind is occupied with subjects of ten of the gravest importance. The hours of sleep have to be cut short; and relaxation is almost impossible. The Supplementing Board, for example, met every day that the Synod met, except one, and it had to meet sometimes twice a day. The hardest work has often to be done in "Committees" and "Boards." Thus the reader will see that it is no relaxation or recreation for ministers and elders to go to Synod. Yet such meetings, and such toils, are truly refreshing. No one went home from the late Synod without feeling thankful to God for what had been seen and heard and done there.

Our yearly Synods are important landmarks in our career as a church. Ten years ago we met in Pictou to consummate the Union of two branches of the great Presbyterian Family. That Union was consummated amid auguries of evil on the right hand and on the left. But the church walked in the plain path of duty in uniting, and God has abundantly rewarded our faith in Him. He has disappointed all our fears, and more than realized our hopes. Never once since that shaking of hands in Pictou in 1860 has the old dividing line appeared. There have been many votes after many a stirring discussion, yet in none of those votes could the most keen-eyed critic recognize the influence of former prejudices. Is not this matter for profound gratitude to Him who has the hearts of all men in His hand? Is not this a strong argument in