

There is a committee called the Foreign Mission Committee, of whose doings the Church is utterly in ignorance. We trust they will be instructed to do something out of Canada, or give place to those who will do it. Let an effort be immediately made to send a representative to the North West Provinces, and let us shew that while we are prosecuting home work vigorously we are not forgetting our Lord's injunction to send the gospel abroad also.

Finally, the discussion of the books of polity, and the question of a General Assembly embracing the Church in the Lower Provinces, together with fresh matter introduced by overtures and the routine business of the Synod, promise a hard week's work.

It is perhaps to be regretted that the Synod of the sister Church, the *Presbyterian Church of Canada*, meets a week later than ours, otherwise, after the greeting which passed between the Synod and another evangelical body, last year at Kingston, it is probable that there would be an interchange of courtesies between the two representative Presbyterian bodies in these Provinces. Perhaps, even as things are, something may be done in the direction we have indicated.

We are not of the number of those who think that there is too much talking, and too little doing at our meetings of Presbytery and Synod. Those who would discourage members and especially young members from opening their lips in these assemblies are not, we think, the wisest counsellors of the Church. The fact is, our arena is too contracted at best, and does not afford a sufficient stimulus to develop the mental and moral energies of our young men; and encouragement should be given them to speak and to speak well, on all fitting occasions. What has given robustness to the intellect and debating power of the Scottish ministers, but this, that their Presbyteries, Synods and General Assemblies, have afforded scope for the exercise of their gifts? It is the commonest thing in the world for a member there to occupy the floor for two or three hours in debate, and his effort if successful, is greeted with cheers rather than impatience by the other members of the Court. We have heard reflections on the weakness of the debating exhibited in our Church courts by the very persons who deprecate so much talking. But it is simply ridiculous thus to speak. As well expect that men should learn to swim

without venturing into deep water, as that they should show themselves accomplished speakers without opportunity of exercising their gifts in that direction. Lord Brougham's advice, to the yet young Macaulay, evinced a far deeper insight into the sources of oratorical power, when he recommended the youth to seize every opportunity of speaking that offered in public or private. Let our ministers study Quintilian and the great Masters, by all means, but it is as vain to look for an orator as for a shoemaker, made perfect by theory. We think it desirable, therefore, that instead of checking any wish, on the part of members, to add to the attractiveness of our Church courts by the embellishments of literature and elocution, all encouragement should be held out to them; and that instead of their being less speaking, there should be more and better speaking. But while exhaustive debates should be encouraged, no member, young or old, should be allowed to violate the standing rule and speak twice on the same subject, unless by way of explanation or to a point of order, except the mover of a resolution.

Taking advantage of the new law by which the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of Montreal (a title we use since it is embodied in the act) will receive nearly \$18,000 annually, instead of about \$2,000 as heretofore, it has been decided by them to give the schools under their management a much higher character than was before possible. Inducements will be held out to teachers of high attainments to take charge of the schools; a more elevated standard of education has been determined on; and by competitive examinations, pupils may pass from the grammar school departments of each of the commissioners' schools to the high school free, and afterwards may enter the University, in which free scholarships will be secured, to be obtained by a similar system of competition to that by which scholars will be admitted to the high school. In addition to the ordinary branches of elementary instruction, the grammar school course will include the elements of Latin, Algebra, Geometry, branches of Natural Philosophy, Mechanical drawing &c. These improvements will undoubtedly induce parents to send their children to the commissioners' schools, who have till now not unnaturally believed that these were only intended to give the barest rudiments of education. Their