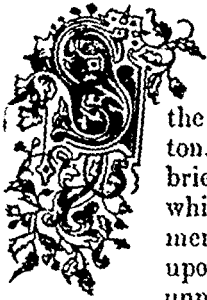


that their use is inexpedient. The next Synod will probably see the matter definitely settled by a "permissive bill" being passed.



SEVERAL very important questions of general interest will come before the Synod to meet in Kingston, in June next. We will briefly notice a few of these, which it would be well for the members of Synod to reflect upon, that they may not come unprepared for the discussion, which must necessarily arise from them.

By referring to page twenty-five of the minutes of last Synod, it will be seen that Book I. of the Form of Church Polity submitted by the committee appointed to draft a code of rules for the practice of the Church, was remitted to the committee for revision, and for transmission to Presbyteries, which were requested to report their opinions thereon to the committee, before the first of March. All members should carefully study and well consider the report, as it is of the utmost consequence that the form of polity should be made as perfect as possible. The Interim Act anent the examination of students and candidates for the holy ministry should also be well and carefully considered. It will be found in page thirty-five of the Synod minutes.

It is probable that the propriety of supporting a Foreign Mission, may be brought up at this meeting of Synod. Last year it was recommended that the contributions of congregations throughout the bounds should go to the Missions of the Church of Scotland, and that the funds for the year now nearly closed should be applied to the support of the Rev. Charles I. Cameron, Missionary of the Church of Scotland to Madras, who was formerly a student at Queen's College. It will be a matter for serious consideration whether this course should be continued, or the Synod take steps to open a field of Foreign Missionary labour, which could be more particularly regarded as its own, and looked upon by the members of our Church as belonging especially to them to support. In the present state of our finances the greatest care must be taken to enter upon no new undertakings which we do not see our way clearly to carry out properly. Nothing should be done from a mere hasty impulse

and simply from the desire to be able to boast of a Canadian Mission field, if we can better and more effectually obtain our end by assisting the parent Church. We would say nothing to discourage those who believe in the practicability of our Church occupying the Foreign Mission field, and maintaining labourers in it advantageously but would simply advise them to consult the Town Clerk of Ephesus, and "do nothing rashly."

At the missionary meeting which will probably be held as usual during the sitting of the Synod, some who have thought deeply on the subject may have an opportunity of laying their views before a larger audience than that which is usually present at the ordinary proceedings of Synod, and if nothing be resolved upon this year, suggestions and ideas may be thrown out which will fructify and yield abundantly in a future season.

The presence of several corresponding members from the Synods of the Lower Provinces will bring up the consideration of the question of a General Assembly of the Church for the whole Dominion. To this important matter the thoughts of members should be directed.

The financial position of the Church at large, in view of the loss sustained by the suspension of the Commercial Bank, will demand the most serious consideration. A complete revision of the laws relating to the distribution of the funds of the Church, under the management of the 'Temporalities' Board, would appear to be demanded. For the same reason, and from the withdrawal of the legislative grant to Queen's College, announced as part of the policy of the Government of Ontario, a very grave responsibility will rest upon the Synod, and the wisest and most earnest deliberation will be necessary in order to devise such measures as shall preserve to us the benefits of an institution to which we owe so much. It will be a lasting disgrace to us if we allow the nursery of our Church to sink without the most strenuous efforts to rescue it from the difficulties which now appear to threaten its existence.

We have merely indicated some of the questions which will probably arise. We shall be glad to receive suggestions for publication in our next number on the subjects we have referred to, or on others which may occur to any of the members of our Church, which may afford matter for consideration before the meeting of Synod.