

their existence, and are thus powerless to check their irregularities or supplement their deficiencies.

The office should be revived by the Church. Our very best men are required for it, and as the committee of the Presbyterian Church (South) says, we will not get these, and no progress will be made in the matter "until the dignity and importance of this office and work are recognized."

To whom should the appointment of such men be entrusted? Why not to our Synods? This and various other matters should be committed to Synods, not merely to provide them with distinctive work, but because it will be simply impossible for our General Assembly to grapple with everything in a Church, so widely extended as ours is. It would not do to entrust the ordination of such men to Presbyteries or to any Board or Committee. The Synod should call them, and not call broken down men, but men whom the general voice of the Church has already pointed out as having the requisite gifts. When one has been so called and set apart, a fixed stipend should be secured to him, paid either from a district fund, or through the Home Mission Board. He should be connected with some Presbytery and have all the rights and privileges of other qualified members in that Presbytery. At the Synod his work for the year could be mapped out. While within the bounds of Presbyteries other than his own, he would be subject to them, and would have only the right to sit and deliberate. This sketch of his relationship to our existing Church organization, is submitted merely as a suggestion. Let the propriety of reviving the office be conceded, and there will be no difficulty in defining his place. The one danger to be guarded against is too rigid definition at the outset. Our Church is free. It has all power in itself. It can check evils when they appear or make rules as they are called for.

What does the Church exist for? To save the souls of men, to extend the kingdom of Christ, to develop Christian character to the highest possible point, and to all its rightful issues. In order to accomplish these high ends, it must fearlessly use every agency that God blesses. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." If new modes of working, new agents or agencies are needed in new lands and new generations, let the Church acknowledge them, and do so not timidly but trustfully. In this as in similar cases it may be found that what we call new is really old.

OUR TRINIDAD MISSION.

BY DR. P. G. M'GREGOR, HALIFAX.

This Mission has for its object the evangelization of natives of India who are living either temporarily or permanently in the West Indies, and more especially in the Island of Trinidad. The mission originated in a visit to that island by Mr. Morton for health some ten years ago. He there saw a large body of Asiatics, chiefly Hindoos, from India, indentured to labour for five years, with the privilege of return at the expiration of that time. The British Government took care that they should be treated as men, not as slaves, and that wholesome food and medical attendance should be provided,