

# THE PRESBYTERIAN

JULY.

The late meeting of the Synod at Ottawa must be regarded as one of the most important and interesting ever held in connection with the Church of Scotland in Canada. The place of meeting, as it now appears, had been happily chosen. Not since 1865 had the Supreme Court met in Ottawa, and then in very different circumstances. That was one of the smallest meetings that had taken place for years previously; this, both in respect of representative members present, and the attendance of the public, was the largest. Ottawa, at that time an inconsiderable provincial town, has since doubled its population and become a beautiful city, with public buildings unsurpassed and with evidences of progress and prosperity worthy the capital of the Dominion. Not to speak of other fine new churches, St. Andrew's, in which the Synod convened, is certainly remarkable for architectural symmetry. In almost every particular it is a model church. The arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the Synod were so complete as that nothing more could be desired. The hospitality of the citizens, too, was unbounded. That might have been expected, but the daily dejeuner, provided and dispensed by the ladies of the church, was something quite exceptional. The simultaneous meeting of the General Assembly of the C. P. Church was also a remarkable coincidence, and gave rise to a succession of reunions which will not soon be forgotten. Notably, we think of the invitation extended to the Synod *en masse* by the ladies of Knox church, to spend an hour of social intercourse

in the spacious hall of their new church, when nearly four hundred guests sat down together to partake of a sumptuous entertainment, and after which, Dr. Wardrope, having assumed the chair, drew from one and another unpremeditated expressions of reciprocal good-will and fraternal regards. No one could go away from such a meeting without feeling that, after all, "we be brethren." Thanks to the ladies for this.

And then those union prayer meetings, held alternately in the Kirk and in the C. P. church, in the early morning, before the day's work began — times of refreshing they were felt to be. But the Saturday Conference and the Sabbath Communion were of all the most memorable. Those who have been in the habit of saying that the Free Church ought to come back to us and not we go to them, should have seen the procession of 150 ministers and elders of the Free Church, headed by their Moderator in his robes, marching through the town by the space of half a mile, entering our church, and, during two hours, in the spirit of Christian courtesy, conferring with us regarding the things which make for peace: and, again, on the Sabbath day, should have witnessed the solemn celebration of the Sacrament, when over 350 ministers and elders of both Churches, passed from one to another the sacred symbols of the Great Master's love for them all. It did seem that by that act so many as were then present pledged themselves in a perpetual covenant to be henceforth one in heart. Surely, this was the Lord's doing.

Tuesday's Conference, in its main