

None of these members while in London was more than a day's journey from his home. The elders were not merely present, but took a very useful part in the proceedings. Some of them are men of great wealth and equal liberality. Men are as pugnacious, and indulge the same feelings, and exhibit those feelings in the same manner, here as in our younger world. In point of the orderly transaction of business, the Synod here does not come up to that of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. Some of the proceedings caused surprise, and could only be accounted for on the ground that the Presbyterianism of England is juvenescent.

The Church here is characterized by a most promising spirit of missionary labour at home and abroad; still, I felt disappointed in the small increase shewn in home extension. It is hard work to live and flourish under the all encompassing shadow of the State-Church. England has not yet ceased to love and venerate the Episcopacy of the Established Church; and Presbyterianism is only beginning to make itself heard and felt. In the eyes of the bulk, even of intelligent men, Presbyterianism is regarded as a thing essentially *Scottish*; a thing that may do very well for broad-tongued, oaten-folk from beyond the Tweed, but a thing never intended for England.—The fact that the majority of Presbyterian ministers come here from Scotland fosters this feeling; but it is the earnest endeavour of the English Church to *Anglicise* itself thoroughly, as did the Presbyterians of the Westminster Standards era. The old fire so rudely quenched to outward appearance in 1662, still smoulders in some districts and crops out from beneath the ashes—especially if the blasts of heresy are blowing. The measures of the Puseyite Bishop of Exeter led to the erection of a Presbyterian congregation there; and no sooner was that step witnessed by regions round about than they began to enquire into the matter, and some found that till very recently they themselves were Presbyterians and this was the Church they were seeking for. The same thing has happened in other parts of England.

The contiguity of other Presbyterian Churches strengthens the hands of our English brethren. Here they are honoured with a visit from D'Aubigne, Revel, Candlish, Buchanan, Robson and other great men whose presence tends to give a powerful impetus in the right direction, and to give a valuable prestige in the public eye.

"O tell me where my dove has flown!" Well, I cannot tell; but I can testify as the result of considerable observation, that the dove of perfect peace has not yet found her way into any human assembly. Here they have a standing struggle about Organs, besides the other little or large questions that always turn up and make ministers differ. There was quite as much feeling, quite as much fierceness, displayed here as I have seen in our transatlantic gatherings. One man gives a hard blow; his brother feels bound to return it with interest, and so the battle continues; yet here as elsewhere the warlike spirit subsides as the closing hour approaches, and above all the din of contending tongues rises at last softly and sweetly the still small voice of love.

The proportion of able and venerable men in this Synod is large; Dr. Hamilton, Dr. McCrie, Dr. Munro, Dr. McKenzie, Mr. Welsh, Mr. Wright, Mr. Ballantine, are men who would take a respectable standing in any Church. Mr. Chalmers too, is a man of admirable debating powers, and good at business. He is the leader of the liberal side in favour of allowing organs, and I must confess I had no idea till now that the case was so strong in his favour. He and Dr. Munro are fond of pitched battles and neither likes to give in.