

Reviews.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Barnes we have received the Minutes of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America, held at Halifax, June and July, 1868. Being always more disposed to find points of agreement, and matters worthy of imitation than food for unprofitable controversy among our neighbors, we notice in the first place, with admiration their ever-expanding missionary spirit. They now provide largely towards the support of a very extensive mission among the South Sea Islands, and some time ago sent a missionary to the Coolies in Trinidad. This gentleman—a corresponding member, by the way, of the Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science—finds his success so encouraging that the Synod have resolved to send out another missionary to his assistance. In connection with this mission a very interesting resolution of the Board of Foreign Missions appears in the Minutes of Synod before us, p. 24:—“In reply to Mr. Morton’s inquiry, whether the Synod would approve of the baptism of Mahomedan or Hindoo Coolies, provided they gave them up to the elders of the Church to be taught in the principles of the Christian faith, it was resolved ‘That our missionary be authorized, in cases where the parents give up their children to the care of the Church, to be trained in the religion of Jesus Christ, to baptize such children; but would recommend that any steps taken should be with the concurrence of the Presbytery in that place.’” (Here we have a very close approximation to the system of communicant sponsors.)

In the matter of Church music, we notice that the irrepressible Organ again came up. A congregation in St. Stephen’s, N. B., encouraged doubtless by the example of their Presbyterian neighbors across the American border, seem determined to have the “Kist fu’ o’ whistles,” whether the Synod will let them or not. An energetic No! is the present answer. We are glad, however, to see that—as with ourselves—choirs in galleries are considered out of place. The Synod have decided that “Where choirs are used, they should be under the careful superintendence of session, and should sit among the people, as far as possible.” A new tune book is to be published.

This Synod included representatives, clerical and lay, from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island. It heard appeals, and was in fact—in our phraseology—a Provincial Synod. A deputation from Canada was received during the session, and much fraternal feeling expressed. Our tide-bound Diocese has hitherto been the sphere of our Synodical action. May the Provincial Synod soon be organized, for we surely need all the liberality of sentiment, all the enlarged brotherly feeling, all the extended missionary enterprise which such a body will be the means of introducing.

The *New Dominion Monthly* for August has reached us, interesting and useful, as usual. A good article for its pages just now would be an account of the breezy watering-places of this part of the Dominion, whilst the great western wheat country is smelting under 105° in the shade. Friend B., try your hand. It may bring our neighbors to see us, at all events, next summer.

Notices.

THE RECTORY AT BRIDGEWATER.—Quite an interesting account of the laying of the corner-stone of this much-needed building, on the 15th ult., appears in the *Bridge-water Times*. An appropriate service took place in the church, at which the Revds. H. L. Owen, R. D., D. C. Moore, J. A. Kaulbach, G. H. Hodgson, and W. H. E. Bullock, officiated. The last-named gentleman preached an eloquent discourse suitable to the occasion. The clergy, in their robes, followed by the congregation, then went in procession to the site of the future parsonage, near the east end of the church, where the corner-stone was laid by the late incumbent, the Rev. W. H. E. Bullock, M.A., Assistant Chaplain to H. M. Forces. Under the stone were deposited a paper giving the date, &c., of the ceremony, and also the June No. of the *N. S. Church*