

ties will disappear and a living body take the place of a dead and inert mass.



THE Annual Meeting of the Synod of our Church is appointed to be held at Hamilton, on the evening of Tuesday the 1st instant, at 7 p. m. We hope its assembling so far west will exercise a beneficial influence on the interests of the Church on all the regions round about and beyond. At all events it is reasonably to be expected that many members who never shew their faces in this the highest court of our Church, when it meets east of Toronto, will muster strongly on this occasion. Unless they do, it may justly be inferred that they have not the prosperity of the Church, as a whole, at heart. We hope also to see present a larger representation of the elders of our Church than we are accustomed to see. It is to be feared that it is not a hopeful sign of the state of our Church that the lay portion of it manifest so slight an interest in it. If it had a strong hold upon the convictions and affections of the people, the spectacle so often witnessed of congregations wholly disfranchised year after year, by a neglect on the part of sessions to elect representative elders, or by an unwillingness on the part of those chosen to appear at meetings of Presbytery and Synod, would no longer be seen. It would be well for the Synod at its approaching meeting to direct its attention to this state of things and devise a remedy.

Many subjects of importance will come up to be discussed. Among the foremost of these, is the annual report of the Temporalities Board. There will be more interest attached to it this year than there has been for two years past, from the fact that the Board find themselves once more unable to meet the wants of the Church. It is said that as many as thirteen of the ministers on the roll must be cut off from any allowance from the fund at the approaching payment. The question must, therefore, anew present itself, whether it is possible to continue the present mode of administration of the funds so as best to advance the extension and prosperity of the Church, and if so, how to meet the deficit now staring the Board in the face; or whether some new principle of distribution will not have to be sought, that will work more justly and advantageously.

As important, and perhaps more impor-

tant, for the present year, will be the affairs of Queen's College, which no doubt will occupy a large share of the interest and attention of the Synod. First, there will be the election of trustees. In regard to this, a different policy should be inaugurated from that hitherto generally followed, of re-electing as a matter of course the retiring trustees, whoever they may chance to be. At the present moment of writing we do not know who those gentlemen are that retire this year. If they are the best men that can be got, re-elect them; but if better materials for selection, men of heavier brains, stronger courage, and more fertile in resources, are to found in the Synod, it is hazardous to go on returning men that will be impotent when a crisis arises in the institution. The Church and country are now giving largely of their means to endow the College, and have a stronger claim than ever to be rightly and thoroughly represented in its governing body. A disposition in the right direction has been shown in the infusion of new blood in the recent election of Messrs. Macdonnell and Gordon, for which the trustees deserve credit. It is to be hoped that there will be plain speaking on the condition and prospects of the College generally; and that the Synod, which after all is the place where all improvements should take their origin and which should control the government of the institution, the trustees only representing the Synod and not being at liberty to do anything of which the Synod may not approve, will seek to make the University vigorous and more potent for good to the Church and country.

There is an overture at present lying on the table of the Synod to be discussed at next meeting, which we trust will be discussed temperately and decorously, whatever resolution may be arrived at, namely, that ancient the annual observance by the Synod of the Lord's Supper.

The question of hymnology, which has now been ten years before the Synod, also will come up necessarily for consideration. The annual discussion of the subject has evidently done good, (although we seem to be as far as ever from the immediate object of obtaining a collection that would force itself into use on account of its merits), for far more advanced views on the subject are now generally held than those which used to be expressed eight or ten years ago. If the parent Church should agree to fix its imprimatur on the "Hymnal," compiled by its Committee, perhaps it will be the best thing for us also to adopt it.