

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATION.—The usual ceremony of capping the graduates took place in the Fore Hall on Wednesday. The medical graduates met at 12 o'clock, when there were present—Principal Barclay, Professor Weir, clerk to senate, and several of the medical professors. After administering the oath the ceremony was proceeded with, which consists in the graduates going on their knees, and the principal putting a cap (which in shape very much resembles a Kilmarnock bonnet) on their heads. The same ceremony was gone through with the art graduates at 1 o'clock, when the Principal, Professor Weir, and several of the arts professors were present. An increase is shown this year in all the graduations, but more particularly for the B. A. degree, probably owing to this being the last year in which that degree has to be given.

MEETINGS OF SYNOD.

The meeting of the Synod of our Church in Canada took place in Montreal on the third Wednesday of May last. The proceedings of this body are every year becoming more interesting and important, and we hope to be able to lay an abstract of them before our readers in our next number. The Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church is to meet in the same place on the 4th inst., the union of the two bodies, the United Presbyterian and Free Church, having been arranged to take place immediately before said meeting.

The meeting of the Synod of our Church in New Brunswick will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of August.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia is to be held this year in Halifax on the 26th June.

The Synod of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island will be held in Halifax on the fourth Wednesday of June, when we trust that every minister and missionary belonging to the body, and as many elders as possible from the various churches, will endeavor to be present. Business of very considerable importance will come before this venerable Court, affecting the future wellbeing of our Church, and we trust that they will be discussed in a spirit and with a purpose which shall tend to the future growth of our Church in these colonies, and the promotion of the kingdom of her Divine Head. There is only one subject to which, as we are somewhat concerned, and as it will doubtless be before the Synod, we would wish to direct its attention. The matter indeed is one of explanation simply. A committee was appointed by the Synod to collect statistics and have them published in the *Record*. A table was indeed forwarded us with returns, and these most imperfect ones, from only four or five congregations.

To have published these as the statistics of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island would only have been to expose ourselves to ridicule, while the information, from its detached character, would have been worse than useless. We do not pretend to indicate where the fault lies, but had printed schedules, to be simply filled up, been forwarded to every Kirk Session, as well as to the Trustees or Managers of the various congregations, there would have been left no loop hole of excuse for delinquents. But we believe no arrangement was made for this, and no funds appropriated for it; hence the result. We trust that care will be taken to secure a full and correct return for the present year.

PERSONAL.

We regret very much to observe that the *Colonial Presbyterian*, a New Brunswick religious newspaper, has thought fit in late successive issues to devote a considerable portion of its space to the abuse of the *Monthly Record*. To these strictures, which are the mere outpourings of a malicious spirit, we have no reply to make. To answer them in the style in which they have been made would be more easy than profitable, but our periodical was established with a higher aim than to bandy personal vituperation. So far as we are concerned, the editor of that paper will have the field altogether to himself, and we wish him joy of it.

REVIEW OF THE PAST MONTH.

The past month has not been upon the whole a very notable one. May has from the earliest times been the favorite month of poets—but this year it has been more than usually ungenial, cold, biting, and penetrating, so that it inaugurates its successor with scarcely a bud upon the trees and but a scanty green upon the sward. This is the season during which the Presbyterial portion of the religious world assembles to count its gains, from the kingdom of darkness, to overlook its work and make arrangements for another year. John Knox's family is now a large and widely scattered one. The first General Assembly, consisted we think of some ten or twelve ministers, now they count almost as many thousands. Surely there is something great and noble in this—something to warm the veriest laggard in the great race of life.

Troubles many and great will afflict our brethren in the United States at these their yearly convocations, arising from the civil dissensions which are tearing asunder their political oneness. We perceive that the national or rather sectional exasperation which has separated North and South is scarcely less bitter or intense in the Church than it