

ly have a greater weight than that of the pass of the other. All this evil would be obviated by a great national University, that would test the qualifications of all graduates; and until such a measure be passed, the inevitable tendency will be to degrade the standard of learning. It is long before a question of this kind sinks fully into the national mind; but it is the character of the Anglo-Saxon mind when it once grasps a principle to carry it out sternly to its legitimate practical consequences. And this race will have changed its character in Canada if it do not speedily effect a reform which shall have for its great end the elevation and the wider diffusion of learning.

ANOTHER meeting of the Supreme Court of our Church has been held. Its numbers session thirty-fifth. Only two of the Commissioners, who in 1831 originated the Synod, now survive, namely the Revs. Dr. Mathieson and Dr. Urquhart. What changes have these veteran ministers lived to see! The first Roll extant shows four Presbyteries, twenty-five Ministers, and thirteen Elders. After the lapse of thirty-two years, in which the Church has passed through an ordeal of much trial and adversity, we can now, with the blessing of God, indicate our growth by counting twelve Presbyteries, one hundred and nineteen ministers, of whom one hundred and six hold charges, and one hundred Representative Elders.

The recent meeting was a harmonious and successful one, as things usually go in popular deliberative assemblies. The occupancy of the Moderator's chair was very satisfactory—a matter of great consequence. A large amount of business was transacted, some of it of vast importance to the interests of the Church, the tendency of which, we sincerely trust, will be to promote the unity, activity, and usefulness of our ecclesiastical organization. Great earnestness prevailed in regard to the training of an efficient ministry; important arrangements, designed to facilitate the operations of the Temporalities Board and extend the be-

nefits of the fund under its management, were agreed to; a delightful interest was manifested in the cause of missions; and much hopeful anxiety was displayed in regard to the position we occupy as a distinctive branch of the Church of Christ in this land. We may take occasion in future numbers to advert to these and other suggestive indications of the life and hope that are in us.

There were some keen debates, the natural and unavoidable result of independent opinions held by freemen who have the courage to give utterance to their thoughts; but we were glad to notice that, when the occasion of animated discussion was over, members who manfully opposed each other were ready to mingle in brotherly confidence. We trust that when the hour of parting came, not a particle of acerbity remained in any bosom, but that, as the Moderator happily expressed himself, all were ready to return to their respective congregations with mutual confidence in each other, and with the stern determination to carry out that mission to which they have devoted their lives.

Repudiating the office of a censor and feeling deeply the responsibility of an adviser, we would nevertheless venture a word of counsel. The ambition of very young members to step forward as leaders is not seemly; the infliction of long speeches upon the ears of their seniors is apt to pass for presumption and weaken the advocacy of their views; while the frequent introduction of irrelevant topics, which arises for the most part through want of careful attention to the particular question submitted and the precise point at issue, embarrasses a discussion and leads to precipitate, futile or inconsistent conclusions. The exact marking of the merits of a subject, a correct acquaintance with former decisions, and a determined avoidance of extraneous matter are essentially necessary to a fair debate and a satisfactory deliverance.

News of our Church.

THE SYNOD.

FIRST DIRT.—June 3d. The Synod met as appointed in St. Andrews Church, Montreal, on Wednesday the 3d ult., the Very Reverend, the Principal of Queen's College, Moderator. The usual practice of opening the proceedings with divine service was observed. The learned Principal selected for his text the words of Psalm lxxxv.-5 "Wilt thou not revive us again?"

There was a goodly attendance of members of Court, and of the friends of the Church.

The meeting having been constituted with prayer, the Clerk called the Roll, which contained the names of 102 ministers, including the Principal and two Professors of Queen's College, and excluding the roll of the Presbytery of Hamilton which was reported not received, but which we believe has four ministers upon it.