

great Union celebration gathered around it the christian sympathies and prayers of thousands,—but yet there were elements of usefulness and of attraction, connected with our recent meeting, well entitled to notice.

We should say, first of all, that the Synod was opened with a noble and excellent discourse from the retiring Moderator, delivered with great earnestness and with a fluency which was remarkable in the circumstances; for the discourse was delivered against great difficulties, arising from incessant interruptions. The members kept dropping in, as well as some of the people of the city, during *nearly every minute* from the commencement to the close of the discourse. The preacher, however, retained his self-command and the undivided attention of his audience till the close of his timely and striking address, when the usual reports were given in, involving, in the present case, the death of one whom we have *always*, till last year, seen on such occasions, and always, too, at the opening of Synod, Rev. Dr. McCurdy of Chatham; and of another, Rev. L. McDonald, who seemed strong and life-like when the Synod adjourned at New Glasgow in 1867—affording to all a solemn lesson.

The moderator was soon chosen—Rev. James Watson of New Annan,—and the usual work commenced.

Among the features of interest to be noted we have to remark first of all, that *many excellent papers were read*. The fraternal letter from the Canada Presbyterian Synod claims the first place, and was heard with unmingled pleasure. Next comes the Report of the Deputation to New Brunswick, in which the writer did full justice to his theme, delighting the Synod with the union of narrative and poetry. The Reports on Education and Missions, on Sabbath observance, Temperance and Psalmody, and Widows' Fund, were all heard with favour, and will probably soon appear in print, with others which might be named.

*The Public meetings were very successful.*

There is a sense no doubt, in which all our meetings were public, but we refer of course to those which were set apart for the evening, when those who were engaged in

business during the day might be able to attend. The Education evening brought out a good meeting and a lively discussion which turned chiefly on the diminishing numbers of our Theological Students and the probable causes. Messrs. Currie, Bennet, G. Patterson, Drs. Bayne and McCulloch and others spoke, and though there was great diversity of view, yet prominence was given to such causes as a languishing state of religion,—the intensely secular spirit of the age, neglect of family piety, deficiency of ministerial support, want of Pastoral care and earnest dealings with our young men while studying at Schools and Colleges. This debate presented a good specimen of free and independent thinking, as evinced in the variety of view, while all concurred in the loudness of the call for increased prayer to the Lord of the harvest. The house was full.

The Home Mission evening came next and the whole proceedings were refreshing and worthy of the subject, and of the Synod. Rev. Mr. Law was impassioned and oratorical. Rev. Mr. Ross was at once earnest, humorous and judicious; and Dr. McLeod's speech formed an admirable conclusion to a meeting of great interest from its commencement to its close.

The evening set down for Foreign Missions was given up to receive and hear the Deputation from Canada. It happened on Monday evening, when there were counter attractions in connection with the celebration of the Coronation of Her Majesty by a Promenade Concert and Illuminations in the Horticultural Gardens, still Poplar Grove Church was nearly filled, and all who were present were richly rewarded.

Rev. Mr. Topp of Toronto, the Moderator of the Canada Presbyterian Synod, delivered an address full of information on the progress, resources, and missionary and educational efforts of the Canada Church. Rev. Mr. Clarke of Quebec, followed, gathering up the fragments, and especially shewing the condition of the Province of Quebec, spiritually and ecclesiastically.

Both speeches were excellent, and were heard with great satisfaction alike by the Synod and by the audience.