

THE
Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

JUNE, 1869.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SYNOD

Will be held during the present month in Prince Street Church, Pictou, on the fourth Tuesday, viz., 22nd inst., at 7 o'clock, P. M., the opening sermon to be preached by Rev. James Watson, moderator.

Knowing that special prayer offered last year for a good and profitable gathering of our ministers and elders from the various Lower Provinces, was followed by an assemblage of 96 ministers and 47 elders, besides corresponding members, in all 150, who spent a week together with great enjoyment, transacting the business of the Church, harmoniously and successfully, we feel free to recommend the same course of preparation by personal and congregational prayer.

We have confidence in the wisdom of our Committee on Business to make all necessary arrangements for economizing precious time and giving prominence to subjects of general interest and importance. We trust that missions, education, and the state of religion in the body will come before the Synod as they did last year, in the evenings, with every facility for free discussion, mingled with the devotional element, speeches and prayers being methodized and condensed, so that many may share in these exercises and all be edified and refreshed.

We understand that the facilities for travel by the issue of free return tickets, may be expected by members travelling on the provincial railways, and by steamers in the Gulf and from P. E. Island, and trust that

the approaching meeting may, in numbers, in spirit, and in good results, prove inferior to no other by which it has been preceded.

THE MODEL SYNOD.

It was held about fifty years after the birth of Christ; ten years after Peter had preached to Cornelius and had thus opened the door of the Church to the Gentiles: thirteen years after the conversion of the Apostle Paul, and thirteen years before his martyr-death.

The Church of Christ was still very weak. The rulers of this world had scarcely heard of the crucified Messiah: yet the little leaven was diffusing its influence over many lands: the tender sapling was shooting forth branches, and striking its roots firmly into the heaving soil. While the new religion was confined to Judea its progress might not be much retarded by the old ritual. Christ and Moses might go hand in hand, and no harsh collision need have occurred.—But sooner or later new wine must burst old bottles.

The great apostle of the Gentiles went forth upon his mission, and asserted for the Church of Christ its real and original universality. He proclaimed the Gospel with equal freedom to Jew and Greek: the good news was to all mankind—**SINNERS**, regardless of caste and rite and parentage. The principle on which Paul acted had been admitted when Peter received Cornelius into the Church, but it remained for Paul himself to press it home, and give to it