

THE
CANADIAN PRESBYTER.

JULY, 1858.

THE SYNOD OF 1858.

This Annual Festival of our Church has just terminated. Those who have taken part in its solemnities and labours have now retired to their homes and are chewing the cud of reflection. It is now a thing of the past and takes its place among the records of time. It shall we believe have an influence much or little upon the future destinies of our Church. We may reckon it among the forces by which the Governor of the Universe is impelling the various sections of the Church towards the grand climacteric of His Eternal purposes. The Assemblies of the Churches we have long regarded as the remustering and replenishing of the armies of the living God. In these councils past errors and defections, both personal and collective, may as from an elevated position in the kingdom be accurately noted. The work also of the future may with some clearness be surveyed, and an estimate formed of the labours to which the faithful servant must summon himself. These uses we are persuaded the reflecting will be able to make of our past Annual Assembly. It will be henceforth to such the milestone which tells silently of past progress, and from which we should advance to the goal of Christian perfection that is yet beyond us.

It is matter of congratulation that so many brethren from distant parts of the country were able to meet together with so much external comfort—we numbered 97 Ministers and 56 Elders. We had the pleasure of seeing one another face to face, and of exchanging those courtesies and congratulations which are so pleasing to the Christian heart. It is evident that as a Synod we are waxing strong; although the dew of our youth be yet upon us, and our heads are but delicately tinted with the frosts of winter, nevertheless we are growing in strength like a young giant, and acquiring the maturity of age. We increase by ten Ministers every year with their corresponding Elders and people; and with this increase we are accumulating to ourselves an aggregate of virtues, which every year gives more of wholeness and completeness to our body. Our Synod is not yet so large as to become unwieldy. A deliberative Assembly to be useful should not be smaller than ours is. In a small Assembly discussions are apt to gender into scattering conversations without point or power, and there is a dan-