

# THE MONTHLY RECORD



OF THE

## Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, v. 6.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Monthly Record.

The meeting of Synod drawing near, first that in the present state of our church, members are directing their attention to subjects relating to her present and future prosperity in Nova Scotia. Previous thought on such subjects is not only a luxury but a necessity. The conscientious discharge of his legislative functions ought to be viewed by every Christian minister as a most important part of his duty; a part, which though it does not only call forth that thought nor bring to view that sense of responsibility, which bestows upon other parts, is worthy of veneration and prayer. Preparatory thought is equally a necessity. Unless the brethren take their seats in the courts of the church, somewhat conversant, as far as circumstances will admit, with matters that are brought before them, it cannot be expected, that any good results will follow. It is my wish to direct attention to one subject which may come before us. I refer to the subject of union with the Synod of New Brunswick. And I take the liberty of introducing it now because, as our periodical meets with extensive support in that province, opportunity may be afforded the responding member from the other Synod of expressing the sentiments of his brethren who attend our Synod, and materially aid in forwarding this matter.

In specifying some of the advantages of a union, I may be allowed to state that one advantage would be increase of strength. The most casual observer must perceive, that without an accession of strength the Synod of Nova Scotia can do little for the cause of our beloved Redeemer at large. We may exist in a series of alternate expansions and contractions, frondescence and decay as we receive accessions and again lose them. But a Church of Christ ought not to be aggressive, not towards other Protestant churches, but towards those who are without

the gospel or hold "another gospel." This is a function which we can never perform. Do we fail in this we may exist for a few years, but no certain to languish, Christ's last command to the whole church represented by its officebearers was; "make disciples of all nations." Let us suppose that we have twenty congregations and that for such an object we should receive ten pounds from each, this would realize only two hundred pounds. If in spite of fallings away to which all are subject, this effort were sustained, it would nearly support one missionary, but would not meet the numerous expenses incidental to such enterprises. It may be said, that we can assist the Mother Church in her missionary operations. It will not be doubted however, that the transmission of collections made in this church, for the support of the foreign missions of the Church of Scotland, will never continue to engage the sympathies of our people. It would be a legitimate objection to such a plan, that less would be done in its support. In the UNITED SYNOD, however, a proposal to do our duty in this important respect could at least be entertained, and it would be through our own fault or unmanageable circumstances, if it were not carried into effect, and a shade swept from our banner, which in a few years would deepen into a stain.

Another beneficial result of such a union would be the increased importance and value of our deliberations. In such a multitude of counsellors we should expect increased wisdom. The circumstances of our church, as every one knows, have been peculiar. Our church courts are composed of those, who have been but a short time engaged in this onerous work. To us in short the important elements of age and experience are wanting. In New Brunswick it is otherwise. The approval of a past conflict did not make the havoc there, which characterised its exportation to this province. Here many were left who had rocked the cradle of their church and followed it in its subsequent career and are following it still. Besides an increased number of members, we should thus secure

a variety of elements and a diversity of gifts, important to the primitive Church and important now. In short the defects and excellencies of each should be merged in a happy fusion of everything, which tends to form a Church Court worthy of popular respect, and at the same time capable of real service.

It is deserving of further remark, that in the important work of educating a ministry we can in our present state do nothing. Any attempt to found and sustain a seminary would be simply ridiculous. We could not support more than one professor. A fund of some thousands would be necessary before the foundation stone of the building could be laid. But suppose nothing of this kind were done for some nine or ten years, and suppose instead of forcing the matter, as other Presbyterian denominations have been obliged to do, but which from the liberality of our supplies from home and the extensive educational machinery under the superintendance of the Mother Church, we enjoy the advantage of not being obliged to press forward with oppressive haste; the united Synod should commence a system of contributions amounting, according to our former scale, to ten pounds from each congregation for a few years to come, we should without difficulty possess a fund equal to the end in view.

We need scarcely remind your readers also of the proposals that have been made to unite our churches in British North America into a General Assembly. To us this consummation appears painfully distant. We fondly desire and wish it; but, so inadequate are at present the means of communication, that the flame of hope and desire only burns to consume itself. Let us do the possible. The first step in that direction will be a union with New Brunswick. It will serve the purpose of a small experiment showing how the grand scheme will work. Besides, being united with New Brunswick, we shall enter into the other assembly, if such should ever be formed, with a fair pros-