

The Record.

JULY, 1861.

COLLECTION FOR THE SYNOD FUND.

The first of the Synodical collections, as appointed by the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church, will be taken up on the third sabbath of this month (July) for the Synod Fund. This fund will be charged with various contingent expenses connected with our ecclesiastical organization, including printing of minutes, salaries of Synod clerks, and other charges necessarily incurred in keeping up the various operations of Synod.

As it is obviously the duty of all the congregations of the church to bear their share of this common burden, it is hoped that there will be no omissions. It is desirable that as a church we should begin our new course, by regularly and punctually giving attention to all Synodical appointments, and even by manifesting increased liberality, according as God may have prospered us.

Due notice should of course be given on the preceding Sabbath. The collection, when taken up, is to be remitted to Rev. W. Reid, Toronto.

J. McMURRICH,
Convener Committee of Finance.

THE CONSUMMATION OF THE UNION.

The Union, so long thought of, and so earnestly longed for by many, is now accomplished. The sixth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, will be a memorable day in the annals of the Presbyterian Church, and in the religious history of the country. The union is consummated,—and we feel assured that those who were present, and who witnessed the subsequent proceedings of the Synod, will bear us out in saying, that it is not a mere external union,—a mere paper concordat,—but a substantial, hearty union,—a union of those, who, had they known each other sooner and better, would not have been so long separate. We thank God for the happy consummation of the union, and for the encouraging circumstances connected with it.

The time for discussing our principles, and defining our position, is now past. We need offer no apology for the position we occupy. Our position and our principles are set forth in our articles of union, and we feel satisfied that the right-minded men of

all parties who really study the matter, will acknowledge that our position is a safe and tenable one, that great principles are preserved intact, and guarded both on the one hand and on the other,—that, in short, we have, in our union negotiations and proceedings, acted in accordance with the dictates of right reason, and with the spirit of genuine Christianity. We doubt not the Canada Presbyterian Church will soon become—yea, we feel it is already—not a mass of disconnected and conflicting elements, but a consolidated homogeneous, and harmonious body.

We have said the time for discussing our principles and defining our position is past. We have now to act out our principles, to go forward in the vindication of the truth, to give ourselves to the work of the Lord which He sets before us. Our machinery is now adjusted, and we doubt not, will work, on the whole, smoothly and pleasantly. Some of our operations may be, for the present year, somewhat of a tentative character. But we doubt not that, in the course of the year, things will adjust themselves, and our ecclesiastical machinery become adapted to the work which has to be done. Let us never forget that the most perfect ecclesiastical organization, and the ablest and most sagacious direction of affairs will not accomplish our real work. "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." "Without me ye can do nothing." Let us realize this, and earnestly and unitedly seek the abundant outpouring of the Spirit of God.

We trust and believe that among ministers and people there will be a hearty acquiescence in the union now consummated. The great mass of our congregations have expressed their minds long ago. To any intelligent and reflecting person, who may hitherto have had difficulties or scruples as to the Basis of Union, we recommend a careful perusal of the speech of Principal Cunningham, a man who, for acuteness of intellect and soundness of views, stands among the first, if not the very first in Scotland, and who commands the respect of all who know him. We know that, in the union which we have accomplished, we have the sympathy and approbation of both the great Bodies to which the former Synods stood peculiarly related—the Free Church, and the United Presbyterian Church, and we believe the union now accomplished here will tell elsewhere. It will encourage the friends of union in England, and in Scotland too, and may powerfully tend to hasten a time of general union and incorporation among the members of the Presbyterian family everywhere. We should

rejoice to see the union extending even further here. There may be at present difficulties in the way. But these God, in his own time and way, can remove. In the meantime let us gratefully recognize his goodness in what has been accomplished, and diligently and faithfully do His work in the wide sphere which He has called us to occupy.

PROCEEDINGS OF SYNOD OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

The Synod met, according to previous appointment, in Cote-street Church, on the evening of Tuesday 4th June, the interest of the Union about to be consummated attracting a larger than ordinary attendance. The opening sermon, which was a most impressive and excellent one, was preached by Mr. Clark, the retiring Moderator, from Numbers xxi. 16-18. Mr. Clark subsequently received the thanks of the Synod for this suitable and edifying discourse, and for the manner in which he had discharged the duties of Moderator.

Mr. W. Gregg, of Cooke's Church, Toronto, was unanimously chosen Moderator, and briefly addressed the Synod, on taking the chair.

After the appointment of a Committee on Bills and overtures, and making some necessary arrangements, the Synod adjourned till the following morning.

On Wednesday morning the first diet was chiefly spent in devotional exercises. Thereafter, Mr. G. J. C. Duncan, a minister of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England, being introduced, laid on the table a Commission from the Synod of his church, appointing him to attend this meeting of Synod and express the brotherly affection entertained towards this church by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England. Mr. Duncan was warmly welcomed, and invited to sit with the Synod. At a subsequent diet Mr. Duncan addressed the Synod, expressing the warm interest felt in this church by his brethren in England, and giving many interesting particulars as to the condition and progress of religion in England. A suitable expression of this Synod's fraternal affection to the Synod represented by Mr. Duncan was recorded.

Committees were appointed, as usual, for the examination of Presbytery Records, and of the Synod Record. At a subsequent diet these Committees reported, and the Records were acted in terms of the several reports.

On application duly made, the Synod gave permission to Presbyteries to take on public probationary trials Messrs. W. M. Mackey, E. Graham, and John Eadie.

Leave was also given to receive as Minis-