

The Presbyterian

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

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CHURCH IN CANADA.

MEETING OF THE SYNOD.

On Wednesday, the 11th July, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, met at St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, at seven o'clock in the evening. After an excellent discourse by the Rev. John Barclay, A.M., of Toronto, the Moderator for the previous year, the Synod was constituted with prayer. The Rev. roll having been read over, the Rev. James C. Muir, of North Georgetown, was proposed and elected as Moderator. The Synod continued in session till Tuesday, the 17th July, when it adjourned.

We regret our inability to furnish a synopsis of its proceedings in this number, but trust to receive from the Clerk of Synod, in ample time for insertion in our next, an abstract of the leading business that occupied the Reverend Court during its late session.

FRENCH MISSION.

Owing to the space occupied by the proceedings of the General Assembly, we are precluded from giving insertion in this number to the "Records of the French Canadian Mission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland," with which we have been kindly favoured by the Rev. E. Lapelletrie.

DEPUTATION TO GASPE.

The Rev. Mr. Davidson, of Laprairie, and the Rev. Mr. Wallace, of Huntingdon, have, for the last few weeks, been on a visit to the District of Gaspé. These Reverend gentlemen are a deputa-

tion from the Presbytery of Montreal, to enquire into the spiritual necessities of the congregations adhering to the Church of Scotland in that neighbourhood. New Richmond, New Carlisle, Port Daniel, and various other localities, have been receiving the earnest attention and the excellent ministrations of the Deputation.

It is exceedingly gratifying to find that the Presbytery of Montreal are beginning to act with energy, in respect to this part of Eastern Canada. For many years, the interesting population there settled, who seek and are well entitled to the spiritual and pastoral superintendence of the Church in Canada, have been very much as sheep without a shepherd. When the Rev. Mr. Brooke, now of Fredericton, was settled as the minister of the Scottish Church, New Richmond, he joined the Presbytery of Miramichi and Synod of New Brunswick, in connection with the Church of Scotland, as a member. The situation of New Richmond, upon the Bay of Chaleur, its proximity to New Brunswick, and Mr. Brooke's intercourse with some of the brethren of the Presbytery of Miramichi, led to his doing so. Since the Church of New Richmond lost its pastor, by his translation to Fredericton, it has remained in a very destitute state. It is true that the Rev. Mr. Steven in particular, the Rev. G. McDonnell, of Bathurst, and some other of the members of the Miramichi Presbytery, have visited it and Carlisle, from time to time, to the utmost of their power, preaching the gospel of the grace of God, dispensing the sacraments of the new covenant, and striving to promote the exercises and habit of prayer and devotion among the people, with the devout and daily searching of the holy Scriptures. But how little can the brief visit of one or two ministers, a few times in a year, effect in such circumstances! We should not for a moment seek to indulge unbelief, or cherish distrust, as to the power and love of the God of salvation. Whoever knows the history of His marvellous doings, knows what a word spoken in weakness or infirmity, (witness, for example, the success of Jonah's preaching to the mariners of Tarshish and the inhabitants of Nineveh,) may, by the omnipotency of divine grace, be made to effect much. Nevertheless while the author of spiritual life is sometimes pleased thus strikingly to manifest His sovereignty, we ought never to forget that "He is also the author of His own ordinances." These

ordinances God prizes. He is honoured by their faithful observance. He loves the gates of Zion. He was pleased, by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. The consequent duty of His Church and children is obvious.

The state of a people who once enjoyed the efficient labours of a faithful minister of Christ, but who have been long deprived of this invaluable privilege, is very alarming. It is like that of ground once cultivated, but over and in which pernicious seeds of great strength and number have been allowed to accumulate. Such soil the agriculturist might find it more difficult by far to bring back and to restore to health, fertility, and beauty, than that of the green forest where the leaves of the oak and other denizens of the wood had been falling undisturbed for many a century. Analogous to this is the condition of a congregation or ecclesiastical society, once favoured with a man of God whom the Holy Spirit had made an over-seer among them, but who are now comparatively neglected, without a spiritual workman to sow the seed of the word of truth, and to labour for the extirpation of those noxious weeds, of error and sin that tend to render it unfruitful.

To revert to New Richmond and the vicinity. We have often thought that the occasional going thither of a minister of the gospel has succeeded in keeping the people dissatisfied. Even this is good. Were they content to remain without gospel ordinances, who does not see that their condition would be far worse than it is? But they are anxious, they are tractable, kindly, and disposed to liberality in the support of the spiritual labourer. Surely then the Presbytery of Montreal will feel under solemn and deep obligations to supply such. This Presbytery has, as was becoming, taken charge of this District. One of their number, the Rev. E. Lapelletrie, visited it last year, and has reported. An energetic deputation is now worthily discharging the duty of watchmen upon the walls of Zion, amidst the scattered villages and dwellings of a valuable population. A distinguished friend of the Church of Scotland—the Hon. Mr. Rankin—whose exertions for the welfare of the Church are well known and highly appreciated, when lately in Scotland, was made aware of a young minister, who, if invited, would, in all probability, accept of the charge of New Richmond. This information has been, or will be, we trust, communicated to the Presbytery of Montreal.