

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

THE SYNOD AT LONDON.

A SHORT SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS— PROSPECTS OF THE MOVEMENT.

As stated in our telegraphic columns on Wednesday, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland met in London, Ont., on Tuesday evening last. Owing to the great pressure on our space we have been unable to make use of the telegraphic accounts of the subsequent proceedings, but this was of the less consequence as they merely gave an outline of the steps taken to reorganize. All the information necessary might be sufficiently conveyed by a short summary. In common with most of our contemporaries we had been under the impression that the adherents of the Church of Scotland in Canada had ceased to exist as a distinct ecclesiastical organization. We learn, however, that there were present at the Synod in London between thirty and forty members, besides delegates from broken up congregations, sent to ask advice as to the course they should follow. The detailed accounts given in the local papers go to show that, rightly or wrongly, a strong determination was manifested to reorganize, and a large amount of administrative ability seems to have been developed, as evidenced by the steps taken for that purpose. Committees were formed to take charge of the legal measures necessary to be adopted; to collect the funds required for the work of the Church; to maintain a periodical intended to keep the position of the body before that part of the population which continues to adhere to the Church of Scotland, and to organize for the systematic visitation of all parts of the country, so as to bring into combined action those who may sympathise with the course taken by the Synod. So far as can be

judged by the necessarily imperfect reports accessible to us, there seems little doubt great confidence of ultimate success exists among those who have taken the lead in this matter, a result which a short time ago we would have regarded as impossible. But it appears to be evident from the presence of members of the body from the extremities of both Provinces, as well as from nearly every county in Ontario, that a much deeper feeling exists for the maintenance of the connection with the Church of Scotland than has been generally imagined.

In the evening a missionary meeting was held. There was a large audience. The Rev. Gavin Lang was in the chair, and faithfully discharged its duties.

The Scriptures were read by the Rev. Thomas McPherson, and prayer offered by Rev. Mr. Brodie. Mr. Lang opened in a pleasing address, in which he expressed great thankfulness to God for helping our people to meet so bravely the difficulties of our position. The question often put, Why have we not gone into the Union and been at peace? is easily answered—we cannot have peace at the sacrifice of principle. He noticed Dr. Norman McLeod's description of the disruption. The disruption of the Church in 1843 was gloomy and dark, but still he was happy, because he stood to his convictions. If we have been brought in a trial, we have done nothing to cause us to blush. Mr. Lang specially addressed the membership of the Church. He said:—We have to bear our part, both in maintenance of principle and of work. Nobody is to think he can do nothing. Great people are often less capable of good than the humble and good. The speaker illustrated this by an incident at the burial of Dr. Norman McLeod. A son of toil who saw the passing procession wiped away an honest tear, and said if he (McLeod) had only done the good that he