

## THE MARITIME SYNOD.

Met in St. Matthew's Ch., Halifax, Oct. 4-7, Rev. J. H. Chase, retiring Moderator, preached from John 16: 12. Rev. J. F. Forbes, of Sydney, was called to the chair.

The matters of more general interest before the Synod were the main Schemes of the Church, the College, Home Missions, Augmentation, Foreign Missions, and the many subjects that come under the head of "Life and Work."

The College, one of the centres of work, for there the ministry receives its stamp, not merely of office, but in some measure of character, has taken a step forward. The Library Building, containing additional needed classrooms, is nearly completed. About three-fourths of the cost has been subscribed. It is hoped the balance will soon be raised. The professors, who know best the need, have been among the foremost in their giving and collecting for the work.

The giving by the Synod to Home Missions, including what it gives to help its own sons and daughters in the scattered missions of the far North West, has increased, during the past fifteen years, four fold, from three and four thousand dollars yearly, to twelve and fourteen thousand yearly.

From outlying churches and settlements, from Northern New Brunswick, from Newfoundland, from distant Bermuda,—which be it remembered belongs to the Presbytery of Halifax in the Presbyterian Church in Canada,—members of Synod spoke of the good work done by the Home Mission Fund.

Augmentation reported as doing well and wanting to do better. There are 66 congregations in the Synod receiving this year aid from the Fund:—which means;—that our Church is extending; that new groups of mission fields are being banded together into congregations with a settled minister of their own, which otherwise they could not have;—which further means that every part of these Provinces is being more completely leavened with truth and righteousness than ever before;—which means that the more remote settlements which send forth so many strong men to lead the country, send more of them forth as Christian men;—and which also means that we are gaining, every year, more helpers in the other schemes of our Church work.

Foreign Mission Night brought its usual message of success and need; open doors opening into larger opportunities.

Our missionary to the East Indian immigrants in Demarara, Rev. J. B. Cropper, makes an earnest appeal for a missionary, and emphasizes it by most generously offering what he should not be permitted to do, give up half his own salary to secure a fellow-laborer.

A review of the various subjects under the head of "Life and work," such as Sabbath Schools, Temperance, Systematic Giving, Young People's Societies, etc., gave much to encourage.

Our Synod by the sea—we have two such now—the oldest and the youngest in our church,—ever faces the rising sun, both in purpose and in work.

## A BIT OF MARITIME HISTORY.

In the opening sentences of its report of the recent meeting of the Maritime Synod in Halifax, 4-7 Oct., the Presbyterian Witness reviews the Unions of which that Synod is the result.

In 1817, the Synod of the "Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia" was formed. At that time there were 26 Presbyterian ministers and 42,000 people in the Maritime Provinces.

In 1833 a Synod was formed in connection with the Church of Scotland.

In 1844, this Synod divided, in sympathy with a division in Scotland. There were then, and for sixteen years afterwards, 4 Synods in the Maritime Provinces.

In 1860, on the 4th October, was consummated the Union of the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia, and the Free Church.

Six years later, 1866, the New Brunswick Synod and that of Nova Scotia were united.

In 1875, came the Union at Montreal when all sections of Presbyterianism in Canada were "gathered into one." All?—Nearly all; for our Covenanting brethren still stand aloof in some places; and a few congregations of the Church of Scotland are by themselves.

These unions have been a blessing, and have set free the energies of the Church for the great work of Home and Foreign Missions.

The first Synod after the union of 1860 was held in this city. Twenty ministers who were present at that Synod are living to-day, and the names of fourteen are still on our roll.

The first Synod after the union of 1875, was held at St. John.

The Twenty-fourth Synod was held last October at Moncton.

The Twenty-fifth Synod met in St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, on Tuesday evening, 4th October, 1898.

There is a limit to the work that can be got out of a human body, or a human brain, and he is a wise man who wastes no energy on pursuits for which he is not fitted—Gladstone.