

THE

Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

APRIL, 1875.

THE UNION CELEBRATION—THE FINANCES.

This great event is not three months distant. In about two months from the time when our readers are perusing this RECORD our ministers and elders will be packing their trunks for Montreal. We expect to be able to announce the place and time in the next May No. But the present number must go forth without the attention of contributions being called distinctly to the effect that before the time named some \$3000 must be raised to meet the travelling expenses of members of Synod.

Is this a fact? We reply by stating that at the last annual meeting in Halifax there were present 118 ministers and 62 elders, making 180 all told, while at the adjourned meeting in New Glasgow there were present 166 ministers and 51 elders.

Would it not be a fair conclusion that it is likely to go to Montreal. Now we assume that they will have no hotel expenses while there and that they will return tickets, and with these assumptions which may not be fully realized, the average at all admissible will be \$36, but we shall say \$30. One hundred and fifty members at \$30 each will amount to \$4500. The raising of this sum within the next two months (there should be no debt assumed) is impracticable. We therefore respectfully submit that all who make up their minds to go must lay their accounts on their hands into their own pockets, and, albeit they are engaged in the service of the Church, paying out a few dol-

lars of their own, thus reducing the average payment to \$25, which will cover the ticket we presume and nothing more. Even at that reduced rate the 150 will cost the Synod Fund \$3756. And should any say not more than 100 will go, even the 100 will make a draft of \$2500.

Below that sum we cannot go. But where is that to come from, and how is it to be raised? We shall attempt a reply, and *First*, It should be remembered all round that the case is extraordinary, and even unique. Our whole ministry will never again be privileged to attend and share in such a celebration, unless national lines should be obliterated and a great American Assembly be formed. In a word, in future years not a fourth of the number will have a right to the General Assembly, so that what is to be done demands a *special effort*.

Secondly, It must be done by ourselves. Will not these expenses be met in part by our brethren in the Upper Provinces? We can neither ask nor expect it. Many of the Ontario brethren will come as far, and those from Manitoba much farther. This outlay must be met from our own resources.

Thirdly, It cannot be raised by an ordinary collection. Announce a Synod collection and many a man will give a shilling who could give a pound. (We love the ring of the good old sterling.) It must be met by special effort. How the effort is to be made, and what form it is to assume, let congregations themselves decide.

But this idea we throw out, that the attendance on this celebration should be re-