

"Who will win the prize?" asked the rest of the flowers, as they came forward, each conscious of its attractions, and each equally sure of receiving the reward.

"I will take a peep at the assemblage," thought the violet, not intending to make one of the company, "and see the beauties as they pass."

Just as it was raising its modest head from its humble and retiring corner, and was looking in upon the meeting, the judge rose to render his decree.

"To the violet," said he, "I award the prize of beauty, for there is no trait more rare, none more enchantingly beautiful than *modesty*."

THE MEMORY OF A GOOD MOTHER.

How often, when the syren voice of the tempter whispers in the ear of the frail child of mortality, the words, *aye*, the very voice-tones of warning are remembered, and the snare broken. Long grass may be growing over the hallowed spot where all the earthly reposes,—the dying leaves of autumn may be whirled over it, or the chill white mantle of winter cover it from sight, yet the spirit of such a mother is always by the side of him when walking the right path, and gently, sadly, mournfully calling to him when wandering off into the dull paths of crime.

DUTIES OF WIFE, MOTHER, AND SISTER.

—There are so many allurements to lead gentlemen astray outside, that it is the duty of every wife, mother and sister to make home as inviting and cheerful as possible; if we make others happy, we please them; how great the pleasure to us to know we have the power to please and amuse! I trust, if Emma lives to marry, that she may study to please and make her home a happy one; three or four years will make some difference in her, of course. Now she thinks only of study and music, and bids fair to gain the topmost round of the ladder, which is certainly very gratifying; still in domestic education she shall not be deficient.—There is not so much in girls getting husbands—*'tis all in keeping them*; therefore, to be happy, a wife must study to make her husband so, she must concentrate all her energy and feeling in the home, and the man must have a bad heart that can withstand all the tender devotion, the desire to contribute to his wishes and even anticipation of his every want by the chosen of his heart. But enough of this nonsense: home and affection are such favorite themes of mine that I never know where to stop.—*Exchange*.

CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

Meeting of the Synod of Canada.

The annual session of the Synod of our Church will be held in St. Andrew's Church in this city on Wednesday the 26th of May. We trust there will then be a numerous attendance of both Ministers and Elders. We have been glad to notice that latterly a large number of laymen have taken part in the deliberations of this, the highest judicatory of our Church. It is their duty to exercise the right of sitting and voting in Synod, which the Presbyterian constitution of our Church confers upon them, and we hope that a still larger number of Elders will yearly attend this Court. Arrangements are in progress to secure travel to and from the meeting by railway and steamer at a reduced rate, and also to provide accommodation for such members of Court as may feel disposed to accept of the hospitality of friends of the Church.

The business of the Synod is yearly increasing in extent and importance, and many matters of deep interest are likely to engage the attention of the Church. One that is of essential importance is the devising of means to secure an addition to the number of our ministry. We do not exaggerate when we assert our belief that we would require 50 additional laborers to fill the many vacancies and new stations opening up before our Church. The additions to our roll from Scotland have this year been a very welcome aid, and we hope we shall continue to receive many from that source. Yet we must look to our own country for the full supply of our charges, and in this view Queen's College must assume an attitude of much importance. The securing of its efficiency and maintaining of its reputation in scholarship are subjects that must always command the deepest interest in the minds of all lovers of our Zion.

The various missionary efforts of the Church will no doubt receive consideration.

The Juvenile Mission has attained a large measure of success. The efforts of its young promoters read a lesson to the older members of the Church, and afford a practical proof of the advantages of a specific scheme. The treasurer's report will be looked to with interest.

We believe that the Jewish and Foreign Mission Committee will be able to report progress. A laborer has been offered to them who will combine the ministerial with the medical capacities, and is highly recommended by Dr. Schaffner and other well known and judicious parties. We trust that the labours of the Committee and the deliberations of the Synod may be overruled to promote the success of this interesting scheme.

The placing of the French Mission on a footing creditable to the Church is very desirable. Laborers can be had, if our congregations only evince a real interest in the work. The duty is a plain one. It ought to be discharged. The Church cannot now honorably or rightly evade it.

The Sabbath School Committee and the Sabbath Observance Committee will no doubt report the burden of their trusts.

The Widows' and Orphans' Fund Board will, notwithstanding the pressure of the times, report fair progress.

The subject of a General Assembly for British North America is fraught with many eventual benefits, and will yet be found practicable, and is deserving of thoughtful consideration.

We hope, too, that the Synod will agree

upon some comprehensive plan for securing reliable statistics relating to our Church.

We would be glad to see a determination come to, to secure the laying on the table of the Synod, at each annual meeting, of a thorough practical report from each Presbytery as to its working for the past year, and as to the missionary openings within its bounds. The Church ought to know more of the workings of its subordinate Courts. In one Presbytery, that of Montreal, each congregation was visited during the past year, and much valuable information acquired and real work done. In that of Toronto, a most excellent Home Mission Scheme has been for two years in operation, but the Church at large has no means of learning its features so as to imitate them. In others, no doubt, similar enterprises are being prosecuted.

The subject of a large and comprehensive Home Mission Scheme is one vitally affecting the progress and prosperity of our Church, and no doubt will receive careful consideration.

Such is an outline of some of the many subjects which must engage attention. Others will no doubt arise, but sufficient have been indicated to demonstrate the magnitude and importance of the work before the Synod. May its deliberations be blessed in the spiritual good of this branch of the Church, and may many in our Zion be earnest in prayer that wisdom, and prudence, and forbearance, and meekness, and an earnest love of souls, and an anxious desire for the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom may characterize all its sessions and acts.—*Presbyterian for May*.

Buckingham Congregation.

It is our pleasing duty to make known a valuable and appropriate presentation of a handsome Communion Service lately made to this congregation by John Thompson, Esquire, of Quebec. Until the incumbency of their present pastor, this congregation, being in connection with Cumberland, had no session of their own, and for this reason were without some of the requisites of a separate congregation. Now, with their own session, sanctuary, &c.—though for the present, as a matter of expediency, still connected with Cumberland—they assume the position of an independent congregation.

When King David, blessed of God in his royal palace, thought of the ark of God, he was filled with holy concern. "I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains." It is well when those who have the power are not forgetful of the Sanctuary. Far distant be the day when our Church will glory in anything connected with the architecture, the furnishing or the adornments of our Sanctuaries. In these lies not her glory. Yet we are to pay a due regard to appearances. A proper regard to taste in our Sanctuaries interferes neither with the purity of our standards nor spirituality of our worship. To such as are not forgetful of the Sanctuary may the beautiful promise be fulfilled. "The liberal shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."—*Is.*

St. Paul's Church, Montreal.

A meeting of the Sabbath school teachers and scholars was held on the 30th March,—the Rev. William Snodgrass in the chair.

After having partaken of refreshments in the lower part of the building, the children, to the number of 300 to 400, were arranged in the area of the church, presenting a very