

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

JULY, 1869.

THE FRENCH MISSION.

The Convener has asked us to state that Sunday, July 4th, is the day appointed by the Synod, for the annual collection on behalf of this Scheme. We hope that with the new and deeply encouraging feature, which has lately presented itself in connection with this scheme, there will

now be given to contributions on its behalf a new impulse.

We have withheld from our readers all Editorial matter preferring in this number to supply information of the doings of our Synod, and of the General Assembly; as well as of the proceedings of some other important ecclesiastical gatherings. Our readers, we feel sure, will duly thank us.

News of our Church.

THE MEETING OF THE SYNOD.



HE Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, opened its sittings in St. Andrew's Church Hamilton, on Tuesday evening the 1st June. Divine service was conducted, as usual, by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. Robert Dobie, minister of St. Andrew's Church, Lindsay, who preached from Malachi, 2nd chapter, 7th verse: "The priest's lips should keep knowledge." The preacher described first the low estate into which the Jewish Church had fallen in the days of Malachi, the last of the Old Testament prophets. At different periods before, there had been among the Jewish people open idolatry and indulgence in all the wickedness of the heathens around them; but in the time of Malachi, the national sins were formalism, hypocrisy, and unbelief on the part of the rulers, with utter indifference to religion on the part of the people. This state of things had by the time of Christ's coming developed into the hypocritical intolerance with which our Lord was met by the scribes, rulers and pharisees, the masses meanwhile being untaught and uncared for, characteristics also of the present age, which he thought could most properly be called an un-restful age—its lack of reverence, its inclination to materialism, the disposition shown to call in question the inspiration of the Scriptures and the very basis of religious truth. Now, if ever was it of urgent need that the priest's lips should keep knowledge, so that the people might seek the law at his mouth. The Church now wanted men equal to the duty of the hour—men able to

cope with the adversary. There were certain kinds of men who were emphatically not wanted, who would hinder rather than advance the triumph of the Church of Christ. The bigoted and narrow-minded man was not wanted, because the most notable results of his unhopeful labours was to give cause of offence against the Church, and to strengthen the hands of the scoffer. Neither did the Church want "safe" men, strangely so-called—men who stood aloof, and let things drift as they might; the cause of the Church was eminently unsafe in such timorous and undecided hands, at a time when its enemies were so active and so aggressive. Men were wanted of broad and liberal views, and able to meet the rationalist on his own ground. The world was moving, men were thinking, the Church must arise and acquit herself as became her high and holy mission. Men who, while revering the memories of the Fathers and Reformers of the Church, and thankful for the noble work which these did in their day, did not trust to them, as if theology alone of all sciences went backward, or rest on catechisms and confessions of belief, as not only true, but as sufficiently developing truth, knowing well and believing that untold treasures yet remain to reward him, who diligently and with reverence seeketh for them. We were not to let ourselves be deceived; empty common-places would not suffice; men would not take a stone for bread, even from their ministers. In the history of the Church each age had its peculiar wants, and he could tell them that the preaching of fifty years ago, or even of a much shorter period back—excellent though it was in man, respects—would not do now. It was no longer in theology alone that the ministry must be competent; to be versed in all knowledge, as the day requires,