

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

JUNE, 1870.

THE Synod of our Church meets this year in this city, and much important business, it is expected, will be brought under consideration of the members. Many of the subjects will require careful deliberation, and it is to be earnestly hoped that such decisions may be arrived at, as will best promote God's glory and the good of the Church. To some of the subjects to be brought before the Synod, we would very briefly call attention.

The state of Queen's College, as the source to which we must henceforth chiefly look for the supply of ministers for the different charges, will no doubt occupy the attention of the members to a considerable extent. The indefatigable labours of the Principal and of Professor McKerras, have to a gratifying degree been crowned with success, and the report will undoubtedly afford evidence of the liberality of the adherents of the Church in coming forward to meet the requirements of this institution, deprived from various causes of a large portion of its means of support in the noble task to which it is devoted. The report will no doubt be gratifying to a certain extent, but there are other duties devolving on the Synod in respect to it, among them the consideration of how best to recruit the ranks of those preparing to enter on the work of the ministry. This question alone opens a wide field for thought, and embraces not merely the consideration of the efficiency of the University itself, but the prospects held out for those who have passed through the prescribed course of entering on a career of usefulness in the service of their Master, in that sphere for which they have prepared. To the prayerful consideration of all we, therefore, commend the subject.

Connected with the question to which we have last referred, is that of the state of the Temporalities' Fund. It is evident that this is by no means in a satisfactory

position, and that there are great diversities of opinion as to the proper course to be followed in future respecting its disposal. We have lately spoken more at length on this subject, and now rather desire to direct attention to the matter than to offer any further opinion as to the policy to be adopted.

The proper method of collecting the Statistics of the charges within the bounds of the Synod, will again be undoubtedly considered. It is deeply to be regretted that so many have neglected,—we will not say declined—to comply with the requirements of the Synod. The collection of information as to the position, wants and deficiencies or well doing of the various congregations, is of very great importance, and we trust that Presbyteries which have now been sufficiently warned, may be sharply dealt with, if the neglect still continues.

We regret that the efforts in behalf of missions, have not been more effectual than they have hitherto been. The mission to the French Canadians might be one of great usefulness. There is no reason to doubt that at the present moment a spirit of enquiry has been awakened among this class of our fellow subjects, and that recent events have drawn attention in a very marked degree to the questions at issue between the Roman Catholic and the Reformed Churches. It is most difficult to obtain any accurate knowledge of the extent of the growing doubts as to the infallibility of the teachers, who have been so long looked up to by the French Canadian Roman Catholics as their guides, but that under the surface there is a movement going on, does not admit of doubt. Mr. Doudiet has nobly given himself to the work, and there is another young minister who could be usefully employed among these people. But the committee are almost powerless for want of the necessary funds.

The Mission to British Columbia is one