

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

JUNE, 1862.

APPROACHING MEETING OF SYNOD.

Before the issue of another number our supreme Ecclesiastical Assembly will have met, and discharged the functions of its responsible position. We need not say that the meeting is likely to be one of great importance. The last meeting, as the first of the united body was perhaps looked forward to with deeper interest and anxiety. It was that which was to test the reality of the union. While the matters under the consideration of the body were themselves sufficient to engage the attention of the lovers of Zion, yet the interest was greatly enhanced by the novel circumstances in which the Synod was meeting. But if the approaching meeting of Synod has not the attraction of novelty, yet we believe that in the business before it, and the influence which the action of the Synod will exert in the future, the present will not yield in importance to the last. Measures which were then only projected are now to be finally decided on, while from the striking events of the last twelve months, the action of the Synod will be invested with more than usual solemnity and responsibility.

Undoubtedly the Foreign Missions of our Church will have a prominent, if not the chief place in their deliberations. The sad events of the past year in the New Hebrides Mission will form matter of mournful reflection, yet we trust not of discouragement. On the contrary we hope to see, that grace and faith will be given to us to rise as a Church to the emergency, by greater exertions for the overthrow of Satan's kingdom among those fair, but spiritually darkened islands of the South. In this view Mr. Geddie's Journal which we publish to day, will be read with deep interest. The large and inviting fields, which he has explored, present a loud call for the extension of the Mission. In connexion with this, we may mention that the Synod will be called on to decide on a very important measure, viz., the call for a larger vessel for the use of the Mission, as referred to in some of the correspondence published in the present number. The *John Knox* has been of inestimable service to the Mission, but now with the prospect of Missionaries being located on Fate beyond, and the work commencing by native teachers on still more distant islands, it is felt that she is quite insufficient for the work. The Missionaries therefore appeal for a larger vessel say of about 80 tons. The plan however proposed by them for building her, neither the Committee of Missions of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland nor our Board of Foreign Missions could approve of. This was to have such a vessel built in Australia, where she would cost from £30 to £40 sterling per ton, or altogether about £3000. Our friends of the R. P. Church naturally say, why pay this price when the best Clyde built ships can be had for £20 sterling per ton. But our Board improve upon this idea by saying,