

October number of the *Record*. Meanwhile I may mention that though the number in attendance was not great, many subjects of a very interesting nature were discussed, and a more than usually large amount of business transacted. The Moderator chose for the opening discourse those words of our Saviour: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel unto every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned." It is not a little remarkable that while the sister Synod in Nova Scotia should have adopted an overture on the subject of a Foreign Mission, our Synod should have had its attention should be called in this discourse to the great commission which our Saviour left his Church—to preach the Gospel to every creature, and to the great guilt which the Church has contracted in so criminally neglecting it. Let us hope that the coincidence is of God, and that the two Churches, rousing themselves from their apathy, may ere long, unitedly or separately, support a missionary among the heathen. After the Synod had been constituted, and the Synod roll made up, the Rev. Henry MacLardy, of Woodstock, was unanimously chosen Moderator for the coming year. I shall at present allude to only one or two subjects which were brought before the notice of the Synod, and in which I know your readers will feel interested, leaving the published minutes to speak for the rest.

The committee appointed at last Synod on the subject of a newspaper, gave in their report, which was full and satisfactory. The Synod adopted their recommendation, which was to the effect that it (the Synod) should adopt the *Pictou Record* as its organ in a more formal manner than it has yet done, and that means should be taken for circulating it more largely among our people, and for securing more frequent contributions of articles from our ministers. I have strong hopes that this will not be mere words, as has been too much the case hitherto, but that we will be able, as a Synod, to give you real help in keeping up your admirably conducted periodical.

Letters were read from the Synod known as the Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick, and from the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, anent union between the various Presbyterian bodies. The matter was very seriously discussed, and most of the speakers expressed themselves as highly favorable to union, provided it could be satisfactorily arranged. Still, it is my opinion that it will be many a day before such a union can take place, and I fear if ever it does take place, it will be at a sacrifice to the interests of our beloved Church. I must confess that I should have preferred that the Synod had resolved to drop the subject in the meantime till the matter is really feasible, as I think has been done by the Synods of Canada and Nova Scotia.

The Rev. James A. Murray, lately connected with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, was received into connection with our Church as an ordained missionary. His application for admission into our Synod was made to the Miramichi Presbytery some three or four months since, and was ordered to lie on the table till next meeting of Presbytery, together with his certificates, in accordance with the rules of the Church. The Presbytery, at the second meeting, expressed themselves as highly satisfied with Mr. Murray's testimonials, and recommended the Synod to receive his application, which was accordingly done. Mr. Murray has gone to labor as a missionary at Bathurst, to which congregation it is expected he will receive a call immediately.

Several important overtures were passed, among others, one urging on parents who apply for baptism: for their children the duty of first joining the Church themselves. An excellent pastoral letter on the subject was prepared by the Rev. Mr. Henderson, and ordered to be printed along with the minutes.

But I shall not detain your readers longer at present.

THE CHURCH IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

From the published Minutes of the Synod of our Church in New Brunswick, our readers will be able to form a tolerably correct idea of its present condition and future prospects. Like the sister Synod in Nova Scotia, it has had to struggle with many and unavoidable difficulties, arising from a great variety of circumstances—a sparse and widely scattered population, lack of worldly means in many cases, and, it is to be feared, religious indifference in many more, a want of organization among congregations, and, worst of all, an unavoidable but deplorable want of ministerial supply. The Church at home has done what it could to remedy or ameliorate these evils, by sending missionaries as she could find opportunity, and by supplementing the ministers' stipend in the poorer congregations. Yet amidst privations and discouragements great and many, we rejoice to find that there, as here, there is visible progress, and a prospect that, in course of time, many, if not all, of the congregations, will be self-supporting.

From the Synod roll we observe that there are at present 12 ministers and one ordained missionary on the list, and we have just received a letter from a valued correspondent in New Brunswick, informing us that the Rev. Mr. Wells has arrived from Scotland to take charge of the congregation of New Richmond, and from accounts that have reached us we believe he will not only be a blessing to his new flock, but a valuable accession to the Synod.