

To me it seems a great mistake to allow the Synod to sink into comparative insignificance. The Synod should unquestionably be of more interest to us, to those living within its bounds, than the General Assembly. Technically, the Synod has not the same power which the old Synods in the Maritime Provinces had; but practically it has. The General Assembly allows us to manage our own affairs.

Our Church is divided into two sections the Eastern and the Western. The Eastern section comprises our Synod, and nothing more; it is just the Synod. The Western section embraces three Synods, and the Presbytery of Manitoba. Each section has committees to manage its affairs. In our section the committees are within the Synod; so when they report to the Synod they report to the whole Eastern section. In the Western section the working committees belong to different Synods; hence they have no opportunity of reporting their work except at the Assembly.

Of course our boards and committees are not boards and committees of the Synod; but boards and committees of the Assembly. They are thus absolutely independent of the Synod; they are under no legal obligation to report to it. But our boards and committees are formed of men of common sense; men who wish to carry the sympathy and influence of the Synod with them in all they do. They are thus always ready to submit all their proceedings to the consideration of the Synod. They feel that if the Synod does not approve of what they do, they are not doing what they ought to do. Boards and committees may pass resolutions but they cannot control the purse-strings of our people. The Presbyterians of the Maritime Provinces are loyal and sensible people. They are always ready to submit to the voice of the majority, but never to the voice of the minority. Though a board or committee should resolve upon a particular course of action, it would not follow that our Church as a whole was in favor of that course; but when the Synod

resolves to do a thing it is taken for granted that the Church as a whole is in favor of that thing. The Synod is the true representative of the people.

It is desirable that every matter of importance should be considered by the Synod. Especially should every matter in which the raising and expending of money is concerned, be submitted to it. The College Board might, of course, resolve to raise the salary of our professors in the Hall from \$1750 a year to \$2000; but if the Synod did not approve of the increase, the action of the Board would come to nothing. Our people would not give the money needed to pay the increased salary.

But will the Assembly carry out the views of the Synod? Will not the Assembly just do what it pleases? It is pitiable to hear the way in which people sometimes speak of those who have power. The Assembly has power to do what it pleases; or rather it has power to act in accordance with its own constitution; but the Assembly is composed of gentlemen and christians. I have been present at every meeting of the Assembly; I have acted on quite a number of committees; I know how the affairs of the Assembly are carried on in public and in private; but I have never yet seen in the Assembly anything like an attempt to over-ride the will of the Synod. I admit of course that although we form a fourth part of the Church in the Dominion, our affairs do not receive for consideration a fourth part of the time of the Assembly. But it is unreasonable to expect that when three-fourths of the members of Assembly belong to the Western section of our Church, the affairs of the Eastern section would be as attractive to the Assembly as those of the Western section. The leading men in the Assembly are men who take an interest in the Church as a whole, and who desire to act justly towards all parts of it. The Assembly, I believe, is ready in every case to carry out the views of Synod.

If then the Assembly is prepared in all