

MAY, 1876.

THE SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA is appointed to meet in Knox Church, Toronto, on Thursday, the eighth of June next, at eleven o'clock A. M.

In order that every minister and representative elder of the Church may have a voice in framing the Constitution under which they are hereafter to be governed, it was deemed right and proper that the Assembly of this year should not be a representative Body, but that it should be composed of all the members of the several Presbyteries. Having more than six hundred ministers in charges, besides the professors in Colleges, who are entitled to a seat, the forth-coming Assembly will thus have a constituency of considerably over twelve hundred members. In view of the large amount of work that lies before it, it is obviously of great importance that the conveners of committees and all others entrusted with business to be brought before the Assembly, should come thoroughly prepared with the documents necessary for its prosecution. In order to this, congregations should lose no time in forwarding all the contributions for the schemes of the Church which they expect to see acknowledged in the accounts and reports to be presented to the Assembly by the several treasurers. The same holds good, in even a greater degree, with regard to the department of statistics, which requires so much time and labour at the hands of the convener, after he shall have received the raw material from which he is expected to make up, what ought to be, perhaps, the most important and valuable of all the statements that will be submitted. None but those who have engaged in such

work can understand the difficulty of dealing with schedules carelessly and imperfectly filled up, and the disappointment arising from blank columns.

Especially, we would bring to the remembrance of all that, at its last meeting, the General Assembly resolved "to recommend to all the churches under its care, to offer up special prayer during the devotions of the Sabbath preceding its annual meetings in each year, and entreat all its members to continue their supplications in their domestic services during its session, that God of His great mercy would so give the General Assembly the light of His countenance, the power of His wisdom, and the life of His Spirit, as to promote His own glory, and advance the Kingdom of Jesus in the earth."

IT IS TO BE HOPED that there will be a good muster of Lay Elders at the General Assembly, and of the best that can be procured. Does a Lay brother know of any reasonable cause or impediment that is likely to prevent his attendance: he ought to retire from the representative office in favour of some other who can go. It is never too late to do this. The Elder's commission is good if it be but a day old and in proper form, and it will be received by the Assembly though never "sat upon" by Presbytery. It is high time the elders should know, not only that their presence is desirable, but that their absence from church courts is becoming a matter of surprise, and of deep regret, to the brethren in the ministry. Even should he not "shine" on the floor of the House as others do, the elder's influence will tell in the committee room where the real work of the Church is done, and, in the end, by his well considered vote, he has after all just as much to do with