

food dear. The result is the more pleasant as it was swelled by the aid of persons of every religious denomination in the town.—*Three Rivers Inquirer.*

THE LATE MEETING OF SYNOD.

For the Presbyterian.

(Transposed from page 107.)

The Meeting of Synod, which took place in Kingston last month, presented to a looker on, perhaps, more points of stirring and healthy interest than any which has been held since that memorable and ever to be lamented occasion when so many of our respected Ministers disunited themselves from our Church, and formed a separate body. The blow then inflicted on our Canadian Church has never been fully recovered. Few things indeed could have tended more to cramp and paralyse its workings in a new country like this. But, without dwelling on so painful a topic, let us venture to hope that the time is not far distant when the two branches of the Scottish Church in Canada, like a stream which has been for a time forcibly divided, may overcome all obstacles, and, once more united, flow in a broad and fertilising tide, irrigating our spiritually arid country till "the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

It was a goodly assemblage of Ministers which gathered together in St. Andrew's Church on the evening of Wednesday, the 28th of May. Numbers were there from the extremity of Canada East, holding pleasant converse with their brethren on the banks of the distant Western Lakes; while to those whose toilsome field of labour lay in the secluded back-woods it was a delightful change to enjoy for a time that Christian society and intercourse from which they were to so great an extent debarred.

Together with the assembly of Clergy, a large number of the regular congregation of St. Andrew's Church filled the pews and listened attentively to the excellent and appropriate sermon preached by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. Mr. McKid, of Goderich. The text chosen was Ezekiel ix 11. After a general exposition and exhortation the preacher proceeded to apply the words of the prophet, more particularly to the Ministerial portion of his audience, expressing a fervent hope that their proceedings at the ensuing meeting might be so conducted that collectively they might be able to say, in the words of the man clothed in linen, which had the inkhorn at his side,—“I have done as thou hast commanded me.” and, in so far as regards earnestness and Missionary zeal and generous self-sacrifice, we think his hope has been abundantly verified.

It is not our intention to trespass on the province of the detailed report of the proceedings, which will, as usual, be published in the columns of the *Presbyterian*. Our aim is simply to touch upon those salient points of general interest, most calculated

to fix the attention of a Lay spectator. Most prominent among these was the discussion, which took place on Friday, respecting the disposal of the balance of the Clergy Reserves Money, which the Commissioners had annually retained from the salaries of Ministers receiving the allowance. This balance the commutants were legally entitled to claim. That it should be divided among them was the proposal brought forward by a much respected member of the Court, who maintained that strict justice to those whose property was involved in the question, forbade him to act otherwise. On the other hand it was warmly advocated that the commutants, waiving their claim to the appropriation of the sum in question, should place it at the disposal of the Church, to form the nucleus of a Sustentation Fund, so much needed in a country wherein so many cases, the poor and hardworking Colonists are not in a condition to furnish the whole support of a Minister. Drs. Cook and George the two leading advocates of this measure, supported their cause with much eloquence and zeal, and the delegates from the other British American Synods, expressed their earnest hope that the Synod would decide in a manner befitting its high position. Most anxiously was the result of the vote awaited, for it was felt by many that the moment was a crisis in the history of our Canadian Church. But the suspense was soon over, and every lover of our Zion must have felt that a victory of no mean importance had been gained. By a triumphant majority the funds were cheerfully given up to the object so generously proposed. We think there are few hearts that will not heartily respond to this act of Christian sacrifice, on the part of men who as a body are certainly not remarkable for wealth. But we are sure that in the testimony of their consciences and the veneration of a grateful people, they will find an ample requital for what they have thus voluntarily and promptly given up.

And, now the Clergy have done *their* part, it rests with the Laity, and surely they will not be backward in the good work, to come forward, and swell by their free-will offerings the fund so nobly formed, till it shall become a reservoir ample enough for the supply of our destitute congregations for many years to come.

There is another point of view, too, from which the measure might be looked at. Had the appropriation of the money been carried out a share would necessarily have fallen to the widows and orphans of those much esteemed Ministers who have lately passed away from amongst us. As it is, they must share the sacrifice. Is not this an urgent reason for doing our utmost to place our Widows' Fund in a more efficient condition? Christian Laymen, your feelings as husbands and fathers are appealed to. Will you not answer the call and show by your liberality that you rea-

ready to care for the destitute ones of those who so long and laboriously cared for you?

The evening of Monday, the 2nd of June, was devoted by the Synod to a Missionary Meeting, to which the Kingston congregation were also invited; and their large attendance showed how acceptable was the invitation. The Meeting was addressed at considerable length by several speakers, and the claims of Home and Foreign Missions well and warmly urged. An interesting outline of the brief history of our Canadian Church was given by the Rev. George Bell, who is, as is well known, one of the first fruits of Queen's College. Where all the addresses were so good, it would be invidious and well nigh impossible to draw a comparison, but perhaps those to which we listened with most pleasure, owing to the novelty of the information and the interest attached to the speakers, were the speeches of Dr. Brooke, and Mr. Snodgrass, the delegates from the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It was pleasant to hear of these distant brethren dwelling among the hills and glens of their picturesque land, yet bound to us by the ties of our common love and veneration for our dear old Scottish Kirk, and better, far better than that, to our common Lord and Master, its ever living Head. And our sympathies too were strongly awakened when we heard of the eagerness with which they look for those who should break to them the Bread of Life, and the many instances in which they look and long in vain. Gladly would we have sent them laborers, were we not as destitute ourselves. But we can at least give them our fervent prayers in the humble faith that they may find acceptance before Him who is the "Hearer and Answerer of Prayer," as well as the Lord of the Vineyard. The claims of Queen's College on the Church, and its importance as a literary and theological institution, were warmly and eloquently urged before the Synod.

We trust that the congregations generally will show their appreciation of this valuable Institution more efficiently and universally than has yet been done. The number of Ministers it has already furnished to the Church, and the honorable standing which these possess in it, might furnish a sufficient index of what it *has* done, and, still more, of what it *may* do if vigorously carried on.

It is impossible to repress a feeling of pleasure at the Synod's decision to send a Missionary to Jerusalem. Our own, it is true, is eminently a Missionary field, and we can ill spare any of our agency, but we are inclined to believe in the logic of those who urged that, the more missionary zeal that is imported, the more will be kept at home. A Mission to God's chosen people in that land, which has always been emphatically called Holy, is a subject on which heart and mind delight to dwell.