

THE MEETING OF SYNOD.

On a warm, beautiful, second day of October, the Synod of the Maritime Provinces met for the first time in the busy, rapidly growing city of Moncton, where, in hospitable Christian homes, the members received a homelike welcome, Mr. Robertson and his people making generous fulfilment of the invitation which they gave to the Synod a year ago. Other denominations too gave evidence that Christian unity is not merely a name but a reality, by taking a cordial part in that welcome, and we trust that their experience of Presbyterian guests was not disappointing.

THE OPENING SERVICES.

At seven o'clock in the evening the large and beautiful church was filled and the Moderator Rev. Neil McKay of Chatham preached the opening sermon, an earnest, impressive, practical discourse from

I Cor. 1: 23, 24, "We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block and unto the Greeks foolishness but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

He said:—"Workmen should always seek the best models. In like manner the preacher should seek the best models and he will find the best human model in the Apostle Paul, who, to all classes, to the sign seeking Jew, to the wisdom seeking Greek, and to the ignorant barbarian alike, preached Christ crucified. Why did He do this? Because it is the power of God and the wisdom of God. The broken law was honored, the curse of it was borne by that Sufferer. Divine justice was harmonized with Divine mercy. The incarnation and the sacrifice on Calvary opened the way to our salvation and proved the very wisdom of God Himself. The cross was the means to overcome our innate antagonism, our natural enmity to God. Paul went forth preaching this cross in Corinth with its corruption, in Athens with its learning, in Jerusalem with its self-righteousness, and the results were the same everywhere—regeneration, reformation, edification. We should preach the same old Gospel—the Gospel the nations are waiting for—the Gospel with which our fathers' hearts burned as they unfurled the banner of the cross in the western wildernesses. Our Home and Foreign Missionaries tell the story with the same results. Let us take from the apostle the keynote of our preaching—even Christ crucified."

It is the story we are sent to tell. It is the story which the sinner needs to hear. The evidence of its adaptation to human need abounds on every side. It is interwoven with the whole history of human progress. Our rude forefathers in Britain proved it as they trimmed their altar fires under their native oaks, and they arose to discern the voice of the true God and to offer him a holier incense from the better altars of grateful hearts. It made the old land—the land of our fathers—what it is, the centre of religious life and the model of national development to the world. Our fathers brought the glad news with them to these western wilds and it is doing for the new world just what it had already done for the old. The same grand results have attended the proclamation of that Gospel by Geddies and the Gordons and their successors in the New Hebrides, and by our missionaries in Trinidad.

Let us repeat it on the banks of the St. John and the Miramichi, on the lakes and shores of Cape Breton and P. E. Island, that our population may walk in its light and drink of its consolations. It is only when we preach in fulness and fidelity the Gospel committed to us that we can look for the co-operation of God, through whose blessing this old Gospel shall yet make our wilderness country rejoice and blossom like the rose."

CALLING THE ROLL.

Though to a stranger this may seem monotonous, yet for many present it has the deepest interest. In the roll call some names are missed, for some have fallen by the way, new ones are heard, of laborers who have been added, while from here and there all over the building are heard the old familiar voices, responding each in its characteristic tone, touching all the chords from the high keyed treble to the deep throated bass, some faint and far off as if awed by the occasion, others generously making up for deficiency of their weaker voiced brethren.

CHOOSING A NEW MODERATOR

Rev. K. J. Grant, Rev. H. B. McKay, Rev. K. McKenzie, and Rev. John McMillan, of Halifax, were all nominated. Mr. Grant was moved by one of the nominees and supported by another, and by the acclamation of the Synod would if willing to accept, have been unanimously chosen both as a tribute to himself and his work, but he declined it, saying:—