

promote religion, and exercise no small influence, in quieting the occasional outbursts of overzealous patriots or rather demagogues, who for selfish purposes, stir up strife between these two great Christian Countries.

Co-operation of Congregations.

The loneliness of the great city is nowhere more oppressive than in huge London. That congregations feel it as do individuals was eloquently and pathetically acknowledged by a number of distinguished speakers who met recently for the purpose of forming a Presbyterian Social Union, at which ministers and congregations shall from time to time meet in friendly intercourse. The idea originated with Rev. Dr. Pentecost who explained the object in view to a number of prominent brethren in the lecture room of his church at Marylebone. The discussion of the proposal was preceded by a plentiful supper which was served to the guests by ladies of the congregation who acted as waitresses. Some of the best-known men present were; Revs. Dr. Dykes, Dr. Monro Gibson, Dr. McEwan, R. M. Thornton, R. Taylor, Sir George Bruce, and Mr. Hugh Matheson. While all the speakers admitted that the necessity for a better common acquaintance with the circumstances of congregations in the metropolis, and for more intercourse between the members of the various congregations, than that at present existing. The speech of the evening was that of Rev. Dr. Dykes, which bristled with practical points. The evils of isolation he put strongly, and the advantages of extending the basis of the proposed Union to embrace the working men, were clearly proved. The result of the discussion was the formation of a Union, which will hold meetings four times a year, and much good is expected as a consequence.

Smaller cities than London suffer from the causes against which the London Presbyterians are seeking for a remedy. It is a blot on our Church that there is not a closer connection and more active sympathy between our city congregations, especially between the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor. In Toronto and in other cities in the Dominion the sense of isolation is sometimes oppressive. For good purposes, for the bringing together members of congregations, and for the discussion of questions of interest in the abstract, associations have been called into being and their work is praiseworthy and probably as successful as can be within the scope of operation, but the great void has not been filled. Presbyteries ought to give their consideration to the question as to how, co-operation in practical work, and an interest in the financial condition of weak charges, can be effected between Kirk-Sessions within their bounds. The member of Presbytery who will intelligently move in this matter will be introducing a scheme for which, should it get a trial on a fair basis, many loyal sons and daughters of the Church will thank him

Late Principal MacKnight.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of an eminent father of the Church, Rev. Principal MacKnight, of Halifax. After an illness of a little over two weeks, he departed in peace at his home in Dartmouth, N.S., on Friday evening last at the age of sixty-eight. The loss to the Church in the Maritime Provinces is very great for he served her long and well. In this brief notice, only a few leading facts in his career can be

touched upon, in an early number a more extended sketch will appear. He was a native of Ayrshire, Scotland, where he was born in 1825. He received his Arts education at Glasgow University, and his Theological at the New College, Edinburgh. He was licensed by the Free Presbytery of Ayr in 1850. In response to a request of the Synod of the Free Church at Nova Scotia addressed to the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, for assistance in the College at Halifax, Dr. MacKnight was sent out in 1855, and immediately commenced teaching Hebrew in the Free College, Halifax. Concurrently with his work in the college, he was pastor of St. James' church, Dartmouth, from January, 1857, to September, 1868. At the last named date he resigned his pastorate that he might give his



whole time to his chair, which was enlarged to include Exegetics. In 1871, on the retirement of Dr. King, he was transferred to the chair of Systematic Theology, and elected to the Principalship of the College, which position he held at death. Dr. MacKnight was one of the most lovable of men. Gentle and generous, kind, courteous and obliging, he was beloved by all who knew him. His mind was singularly clear and comprehensive in its grasp. Dr. MacKnight was a born student—study was his delight. His scholarship was large and thorough. His reading extensive; and while mainly in the line of his own studies, he was abreast of the times in all matters of current interest. His preaching was fresh and fervent, edifying and comforting. His theology was Biblical. His spirit was as devout as his mind was clear. By his death a familiar figure has been removed, and the grief of the Church is widespread as it is truly genuine.

Synod of Ottawa and Montreal.

We have been requested to publish the following for the information of brethren attending the above Synod:—Attention is asked to the following intimations: 1. The business committee will meet in St. Andrews' Church on Tuesday 8th at 4 p.m. 2. The Synod will meet on the evening of the same day, at 8 o'clock, and in the same place, when a sermon will be preached by the retiring moderator, the Rev. A. A. Scott, M.A. 3. Members travelling via G.T.R., will change at Brockville to C.P.R. and obtain tickets by that road to Carleton Pl.