

Take the statistics of the Church as one instance of the systematic disobedience to the injunctions of Synod. For years the urgent want of trustworthy information regarding the Congregations of the Church has been felt. Year after year, the Synod called for them, the Convener and Committee worked hard to obtain them: letters were written, circulars issued, every means made use of to procure the much needed returns. In 1859, a most valuable report, so far as it went, was made of the statistics of the Church for 1858. The arrangement of the columns was admirable, the heads under which the information was to be classified were exceedingly well devised, the returns received were dissected, and collated, and divided and brought together in a very able and elaborate manner, and were, after all the toil, thought and care of the Committee—as displayed by the immense sheet to be found in the Minutes of Synod for 1859—invaluable, that is, worth nothing, for the simple reason that out of 102 schedules issued to Kirk Sessions, only 61 were sent back to the Convener filled up! Since that date, no statistics have been received. For eight years, we know nothing as a Church of what we are doing. Is it at all probable that this disgraceful state of affairs would have been allowed to exist had Presbyteries been doing their duty? We do not believe it, and it is high time to bestir ourselves, to call upon our Presbyteries to shake off the lethargy which seems to have beset them, to

“Awake, arise or be for ever fallen.”

Until there is a little more Presbyterianism and a good deal less congregationalism in our Church; until the Church Courts feel more strongly the necessity for exercising proper supervision over the charges within their bounds, and ministers and Kirk Sessions feel more deeply the obligation to obey the injunctions of Synod, there

can be no true remedy found for the evil complained of, and we may repeat the words of our correspondent with deep regret: “Speak of the Church not prospering! it does not deserve to prosper, when so little exertion is made to make it succeed. Had this Church been a branch of any commercial house in Montreal, there would long ere this have been a thorough sifting of the causes which have kept it back, and effectual means taken to prevent further injury being done.” That such means may be taken, and that they may be effectual to heighten the spiritual life within our Church, without which all material prosperity is but a delusion, is doubtless the fervent prayer and wish of all her true members and adherents.

It is understood that Professor Weir has abandoned his appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and that the long and expensive litigation arising out of this suit against the Queen's College Trustees is at an end. In the action for libel brought against one of the Trustees, and arising out of the above case, Professor Weir was nonsuited, and has had to give security for the costs.

The Synod of our Church holds its next meeting in Montreal. It is scarcely necessary to recommend to the members of our Church here the duty of hospitality to the representatives who will be present. That is a virtue in which Montreal has never been lacking. Arrangements will undoubtedly be made by a committee for that purpose, to ascertain what provision may be necessary for the number of members expected, and it would be well that this should be done at as early a date as possible, so that when those from a distance arrive they may at once be attended to.

Acts of our Church.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.—MISSIONARY MEETINGS.

The missionary meetings which the January storm prevented the first appointed deputation from the Presbytery of Montreal, and the agent of the church from holding at Hemmingford, Russelltown Flats and North Georgetown, were held on the 18th 19th and 20th of February. Addresses on the duties of the church to missions in general, and particularly to our Home Mis-

sion schemes, were delivered by Messrs. Campbell and Fraser, the only members of the second deputation who were able to be present; Mr. W. M. Black being hindered by relative duties from accompanying the deputation as appointed by the Presbytery.

Considering the badness of the sleighing, from the want of snow, an unlooked for calamity in a Lower Canada February, the meetings were well attended. In Hemmingford