

forward in sufficient numbers to satisfy the committee. The financial condition is good, a balance being on hand after defraying all expenses. The revenue for the year, as reported, amounts to \$391.29, received from Church-door collections. The Convener, Rev. W. McMillan, resigned the Convener'ship, which resignation, after considerable discussion, was reluctantly accepted, and Rev. J. F. Campbell was appointed his successor.

Reports of delegates to the Church of Scotland in Canada were received from Messrs. Grant and W. McMillan.

The report on Sunday Schools was given in by Rev. J. F. Campbell, in the absence of the Convener, and accepted.

In the evening, the Canadian delegates, Rev. Messrs. Ross and McDonald, addressed the meeting.

The Union question then came up, and was discussed at great length, after which the report of the committee was unanimously adopted. The measure was sent down to the Presbyteries and congregations, and the Union Committee thanked by the Court and discharged.

On Saturday, the business was chiefly of a routine character, till an overture was introduced on Christian Life and Work, the discussion of which was resumed in the evening.

On Monday, the Rev. Gavin Lang, of Montreal, delivered an address on the Schemes of the Church in Canada, and the remainder of the sederunt was occupied chiefly with routine business and closing up the work of the session.

The Synod adjourned to meet in St. Andrew's, Halifax, on the last Tuesday of June, 1874.

The usual Missionary meeting was held in the evening, when addresses relative to the work of the Church were delivered by members of the Court.

THE following are the collections made in St. Andrew's, Halifax, for the Presbytery Home Mission:—

Col. by Misses Scriven and Bayley..	\$14 23
“ “ Thomson and Taylor.	27 60
“ “ Wier and Taylor.....	27 69
“ Messrs. Urquhart and Scriven.	4 75
“ Little and Taylor.....	33 25
Sent in to Rev. John Campbell.....	10 00
Total.....	\$117 52

## SERMON

*Preached at opening of Synod, in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou,*

BY REV. JAMES MURRAY, *Retiring Moderator.*

“He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”—MARK XVI 15.

Small beginnings have large endings. A man drops a small seed into the earth, and it starts up and expands into a large tree. The slender rill that trickles from the rock presently increases to a stream—the stream swells into a river—and the river, gathering as it rolls, becomes an arm of the sea; and then there is a mingling and a sweeping and a spreading of its waters through the circuit of the mighty ocean. And so of the rise and progress of the religion of Jesus. At first there was the utterance of a single voice in the solitudes of the wilderness—next was the testimony of the Son of God to Himself in the village and in the city—then the gathering of the twelve, and a declaration from their lips of the simple truths of the Gospel, in law and doctrine, to the surrounding nations. There arose from the Apostles the great company of preachers, multiplying and widening their circles of influence abroad over the earth to the present, the Holy Spirit attending and blessing their labors, so that, through their instrumentality, the Word of God has mightily grown and prevailed, and shall grow and prevail till that glorious time when the whole world, now lying in darkness, shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the channel of the sea. What a triumphant comment is this extension of divine truth on the unanswerable position of Gamaliel the Pharisee—“If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it.”

Yes, whatever is or shall be the aspect of the world in the light and beauties of holiness, comes, under God, of preaching. This is the great lever which, by little and little, is lifting the wide universe out of the bondage of ignorance and superstition. It was this which overturned the existing structure of the Mosaic economy in rite and ceremony; it was this which struck to their centre, and shivered into atoms, the idols of the hea-