

ception which everywhere greeted them both from pastor and people, and the entire sympathy, which they so warmly expressed, with the objects which your Deputation was commissioned to promote and advocate. The business before the Synod had reference to the means of supply for the destitute congregations within the Synod, the educating of young men for the work of the ministry, Church property, and some routine matters. There was the utmost harmony in all their proceedings, and there was no disagreeable questions of discipline, &c. On Sabbath, the 19th of August, I officiated at Fredericton. There was a very large and respectable congregation. The Church here is in a most flourishing condition. By Monday afternoon all the business of the Synod was over, but in order to awaken a livelier interest in the minds of the adherents of our Church in St. John in all that pertains to the spread of the Gospel, a missionary meeting was held in the evening. This meeting was very numerously attended, and was addressed by the members of the Deputation from Nova Scotia and Canada, and by others. Much interesting matter was brought forward by the different speakers, regarding the state of our Church in the three Provinces of British North America, on the necessity and advantages of closer union and communion, on the great want of the means of grace and the ordinances of Religion, and on the obligation that Christians are under to contribute of their means for the support of the Gospel, and to educate their children for the work of the ministry. Earnest appeals were made to the Laity that they must bestir themselves in the work, if they would keep alive among them the true religion and those Gospel privileges which many of them previously enjoyed in their native land. The Synod of Nova Scotia had set the example of holding such a meeting; and the success that attended both, the interest that was thereby awakened in the minds of many for the welfare of our Church, and the elevating and soothing effect on the minds of the Clergy, after the unpleasant discussions which sometimes unavoidably occur in Court, cannot fail to recommend this practice in future. The Laity are thus made aware of the great spiritual destitution of the land, and the heavy responsibility that rests upon them to remedy this great evil, and above all parents are informed by what means they may educate their children as laborers for Christ's vineyard, a subject on which they are generally very ignorant. There can be little doubt that, were the facilities which Queen's College might afford for this purpose more widely known and the duty of doing so more urgently impressed upon Christian parents, the number of Students for the Church would soon be greatly increased.

I officiated at the following places Newcastle and Chatham on the 2nd of September; Moncton on the 9th September; and St. John on the 16th Sept. I was five Sabbaths in all in New Brunswick. In all the places visited by me there were large and attentive audiences, and both ministers and people heartily reciprocated our desire of closer union, and of forming a General Assembly from the Synods of the different Provinces. The great facilities for travelling rendering this practicable, and the great necessity for co-operation rendering this desirable, I especially directed the attention of parents to Queen's College, as a suitable institution for qualifying their children for the work of the ministry, and to the free education which it offers to all who have this work in view. In this I was very cordially

supported by the ministers. In nothing would a union of the Churches be more beneficial than in supplying students to the University, contributing to its support and future increased efficiency. There is every prospect of our deriving Students from this quarter, and I have little doubt that the wealthier congregations would cheerfully aid to wipe off the debt on the College buildings, were an appeal made to them.

As I reaped great delight and profit from my visit to the country, and intercourse with the ministers and people, I pray that the Great Head of the Church may make this mission be the means of leading to those great and holy results which the origination of it contemplated.

GEORGE WEIR.

Kingston, 14th May, 1856.

*Report of the Deputation to Nova Scotia.*

The Deputation, appointed by the Synod of Canada to visit Nova Scotia, to confer with the members of that body on all matters tending to the furtherance of the Gospel in British North America, and to cultivate those feelings of brotherly kindness and Christian love that may ultimately lead to the incorporation of the different branches of the Church of their Fathers on this continent,—

REPORT.

That your Deputation, consisting of the Rev. Alex. Matheson, D. D., and the Rev. Alex. McKid, accompanied with William Edmonstone, Esq., one of the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, proceeded to Halifax on Monday the 2nd of July, and arrived on the 6th, with the view of meeting the Synod of Nova Scotia then in session. Although your Deputation travelled with the greatest celerity that by railway and steamer they could attain, they were unable to meet with the Synod till it was two days in session. This circumstance, though it deprived them of much pleasing intercourse with their brethren, was not without its advantages. It allowed time for the transaction of local business, and the due deliberation on matters more immediately affecting the interests of that particular branch of our Church, in the discussion of which it would have been inexpedient for your Deputation to take any prominent part, and left the remaining part of the Session to be occupied almost entirely with subjects of general importance, and the consideration of those matters to which your Deputation was instructed specially to call the attention of the Synod.

As instructed, your Deputation explained to the Synod of Nova Scotia that, in the spontaneous appointment of Delegates to the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, this Synod disclaimed any interference with the ecclesiastical government of these branches of the Church, but, actuated by the kindest Christian feelings, they had no other object in view than the cultivation of clerical intercourse, mutual encouragement in the work of the Lord, and the friendly consideration of such subjects as will ultimately lead to united efforts in the cause of their Divine Master.—That being already connected by origin, by the same standards, and to the Church of Scotland by Ministerial and Church Communion, and having an identity of interests and pursuits in the Colonial field, a sound policy as well as every reasonable hope of success in their common labours, seemed to demand united efforts, and an entire union of discipline and government, and Home and Foreign

Missionary undertakings—a result that increased and still growing facilities of communication, as well as the probability of a closer political connection between the British Provinces of North America, rendered not only more desirable, but every day made more practicable.

Your Deputation met with the kindest reception from the lay members of the congregations of Halifax, and indeed, wherever they went, while the Synod welcome! they went with joy, as a prelude to more frequent intercourse and co-operation, and invited them to take seats as members of Court, and a part in all its deliberations. Having expressed in the warmest terms, through the Moderator "gratitude to the Church of Scotland in Canada for having sent a Deputation of their number to them, and to the members of the Deputation themselves for executing the commission of the Synod, and coming from so great a distance to visit them," your Deputation were charged to convey to you the sincere thanks of the Synod of Nova Scotia for your friendly remembrance of them in their weakness, and the encouragement they derived from the presence of brethren from afar among them.

The subjects which your Deputation were instructed to bring under the consideration of the Synod met with the most cordial reception, especially the proposal of a closer connection, which in process of time might lead to incorporation and a General Assembly—

All the members of Synod expressed their deep satisfaction at the prospect of such an intimate relation, and the desire of their hearts to see the schemes and efforts of the Church of Scotland in British North America centralised, but the prospect seemed more like the vision of a dream than a hope which would be realised. One, who, I am happy to see, is now among us, to carry forward, as far as may be deemed expedient, measures preliminary to that desirable end, expressed himself in language to this effect: "Nothing has afforded me more satisfaction than the very proposal of such a scheme; even the resuscitation of our Church Courts, after ten long years lying dormant, though very gratifying, was not unaccompanied with distrust. I trembled at the fewness of our Ministers, the extent of the field of labour, and the destitution of our numerous congregations. We are isolated, widely scattered, and consequently feeble. But, with the sympathies of the Church of Scotland and its brethren in Canada, I feel that we are now strong; I feel that we are really connected not only with an institution which, with the blessing of Heaven, has perhaps been the most efficient that the World has seen, for diffusing in purity and simplicity the doctrines and inculcating the precepts of the blessed Gospel; but I also feel that we are connected with our brethren in this extensive continent, employed in the same great work as ourselves, and, though the field is extensive and the labourers are few, yet the promised aid of Heaven, at once encourages to more earnest exertion, and forbids despair."

From the impressions made on the minds of your Deputation, they will venture to express their conviction of the desirableness of the incorporation of the Churches of British North America, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and the hope that immediate steps will be taken towards the accomplishment of this end; leaving it to the respective Synods to begin and follow out those measures that they in their wisdom may seem best to secure an object desired by them all.

The only thing that seemed to stand in the