

# The Maritime Presbyterian.

VOL. I.

MAY 15th, 1881.

No. 2.

As thy servant was busy here and there he was gone, said the prophet in his parable to Israel's king. An important charge committed to his care and the poorest of all excuses for neglecting it.

The charge committed to the Christian Church of to-day is not merely the keeping up of a few mission stations but the heathen world of to-day. The Church seems to think that its duty is fairly done when a few missionaries are sent to each important foreign field; and is gratified, and too often satisfied, when tidings come back of the conversion of a few hundreds or thousands. We think that our duty is thus easily done, and we expect our children and our children's children to have Foreign Mission work to do. They may go and preach the gospel, but it will not be to the present heathen world. Those now calling "come over and help us," will have passed away, like the shipwrecked mariner crying in vain for help and at length sinking beneath the waves.

We are busy here and there with questions of commercial, civil, ecclesiastical and social life. These absorb the attention. The pressure of modern civilization makes life a busy scene, and meantime those committed to our care are going down to death having no hope and without God in the world, at the rate of 100,000 every day, or 30,000,000 a year. We are busy here and there and our time for work will soon be gone. The present heathen world will soon be gone. A few christian and a new heathen people will live and move and have their being. Where will our charge be, and what answer must we give as to why it is gone unsaved?

We will never rise to a sense of our duty until we realize that to our keeping God has committed not merely the charge

to do mission work, but, the heathen world of to-day. They are contemporary with us. They will pass away with us. Those who come after us cannot save them. We are our brother's keepers.

This is true of us, as of no past age. Until recently the greater part of the world was shut to the Gospel. Missionaries were not allowed to go into all the world. Now, in every land God hath set before us an open door. From every tribe and tongue comes the call for help. Of every people and nation God is saying to His children, "This charge I commit unto thee." And why, even with all the missionary activity, is the charge so greatly neglected? Not because the heathen are not accessible; not because the Church is unable to do the work; not so much because Christian people are unwilling to do it; but chiefly, because failing to realize the responsibility of the charge, the swift flight of time and the fact that the heathen are dying by millions without a knowledge of the only Name by which they can be saved, christian men allow themselves to be busied here and there until the charge is gone.

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## The Meeting of Synod.

BY THE REV. A. MC L. SINCLAIR.

Our Synod is to meet in a very short time. Formerly meetings of Synod were looked forward to with some interest; at present such meetings are looked upon by many as of little importance. As the Dominion Parliament overshadows our Local House of Assembly, so the General Assembly overshadows the Synod