

The Monthly Record.

OCTOBER, 1878.

THE SYNOD OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

The Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, was held in Pictou, on the first week of October. From the published report of the proceedings, the public can form but a faint idea of the work done. The attendance was fair and the business generally routine. Of the four proposed by the different Presbyteries for the Moderatorship, the Rev. A. Ross, Pictou, was elected. Two deaths, ten demissions, 13 inductions, 4 translations, 4 ordinations, and 4 licenses are reported since last meeting. The subject of large gatherings at communions, was, among other things, fully and warmly discussed. The advantages and disadvantages were brought out by the speakers on both sides. Large gatherings, from time immemorial having been the rule in this county on such important and solemn occasions—when ministers were few and the dispensing of the Lord's Supper of comparatively rare occurrence, people went long distances to attend them, and the attendances were generally very large and not only so, but very decorous and solemn, and the worshippers were revived and strengthened by such cheering sights, and dispersed, feeling and declaring that it "had been good for them to have been there." But although ministers are now more numerous, and the communion services of very frequent occurrence, the gatherings in some places continue as large as ever. The effects, however, are different. The Communion services are not the attraction to many who assemble. Curiosity draws some. Others come to see and be seen. "To

have a good time" is motive sufficient with others; while not a few come with "an eye to business." Such motives can add but little solemnity to the occasion, or derive but little profit from it. The largeness of the gathering on religious occasions cannot be reasonably objected to, but when levity, frivolity and inattention characterize such gatherings, 'tis high time that a warning voice were raised against them, and business and pleasure seekers directed to go elsewhere to follow their favorite pursuits; that all things may be done decently and in order.

OUR OWN CHURCH.

W. B. RIVER JOHN.—The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at W. B. River John, on the 29th ult.

Reyds. Messrs. Fraser and McMillan dispensed the sacrament of the Lord's supper at River Inhabitants, C. B., on the 22nd Sept. The weather was all that could be desired, and notwithstanding the short notice given the attendance was very large.

SALTSPRINGS.—St. Luke's congregation recently held a meeting with a view to take the necessary steps to secure a pastor, at which it was almost unanimously resolved to correspond with Mr. Gray, a student about to be licensed, with the view of offering him a call to become their pastor.

EARLTOWN.—Mr. Duncan McKenzie student, has returned to Princeton for the winter term. His report appears in this number and will show that his labours were fully appreciated by the Earltown people, and we believe they look forward to his settlement over them as their pastor after the completion of his studies at college.