

rovince had their attention equally directed to the occasion. On the previous day, the coaches from Pictou and New Glasgow conveyed thirty-eight passengers to Truro, and great was the scrambling and severe the pressure of those aspirants, who were burning with desire to distinguish themselves in the very region of ecclesiastical legislature. At Truro, two large railway carriages were filled with a weighty body of divinity, and endangering the safety of locomotion. Whatever the secret thoughts of the travellers, there was here at least no display of the *odium theologicum*, but all formed a very happy party, of which friendly greetings, amiable discussions, and pleasant renewals of interrupted intercourse formed the marked features. It was pleasant to watch so many sunburnt and intellectual countenances, bringing to mind much trial and many weary expeditions in our new settlements for the purpose of preaching the gospel, and ministering to the spiritual wants of our population. Amusing incidents excited merriment at the Halifax station—such as the surprise and indignation of a party, who in the rush for omnibuses, found that they had been sitting for a half hour in one without horses attached to it!

On Wednesday, our Synod was opened in St. Matthew's Church by a sermon from Mr. Duncan, retiring Moderator. While waiting for the entrance of the preacher, there was time to remark upon the majesty and beauty of the church—the finest in this Province. A circular stained glass window above the pulpit of a rather intricate model, executed by Mr. Ballantyne of Glasgow, sheds a beautiful mellowed light upon the faces of the worshippers. The wood of the pews is very thick and substantial and painted dark, which ought in a church always to be the case, both for general effect and for the preservation for a longer time of a cleanly appearance. All the pews are stuffed with cloth of a red color. The galleries are constructed at a proper declination, the latter of which is much greater than that prevailing in our new churches in Pictou. At first one does not like the pulpit, which too much resembles a large square battery, from which great guns mounted on high, are expected to discharge tremendous volleys of pulpit eloquence upon an enraptured or suffering people.

After the sermon, the roll was called, when eighteen ministers and four elders took their seats as members of the largest court of our church which has sat since the session of 1843. Two ministers were absent. Even in the most prosperous days of our church in this province, the number of our clergymen did not exceed twenty-two. We understand moreover, that our church has never numbered such a large proportion of clergy of talent, zeal, and character. It combined qualities, which were generally wanting in former Synods, the ripe wisdom of old age,

the sagacity of moderate experience, and the burning zeal of fresh youth.

During the first three days many important subjects occupied the attention of the court, which more than in any former year was engaged in the consideration of vital questions. As a specimen of these, the attendance of elders at meetings of the courts of the church, Union with the other Presbyterian body, the support of the *Record*, the Young Mens' Scheme, and last, not least, the duty of commencing a Foreign Mission, may be mentioned. Reserving to ourselves the opportunity of commenting upon these again, we only remark now that the discussion of these topics was of a most agreeable and instructive character. In a Synod composed of so many, who had not sat together in the same capacity on any former occasion, the unanimity displayed was wonderful. Most refreshing was the constant exhibition of Christian civility, kindly feeling, and throughout this order was maintained. We think also, that the amount of talent, elicited in the way of good speaking, attracted the attention of many persons. On the whole, the meeting of our Synod in 1861 is one of the most important and successful that has taken place in our history, and the recollection of it fills our minds with laudable satisfaction, and many pleasing anticipations of future prosperity.

#### For the "Record."

It was the eventide, and sunshine slept  
So gloriously upon the quiet scene,  
While the soft air sweet tears of fragrance wept  
At every touch that stirred the sea of green,  
Rippling in sunny waves adown the hill,  
Clustering in billows on each stately tree,  
Sparkling in beauty round the roadside rills,  
Whose silver voices prattled to the sea,  
Where new-born flowers, the summer's fairest  
Crown,  
Blushed in that mirror as they glanced adown.

Through the barred casement of a chapel hall  
That sunshine entered lovingly, and fell  
On desk and chancel, till the windowed wall  
Gleamed like the sky in light ineffable:  
Strange worshippers were gathered in that place,  
They sat in darkness though the light was near,  
Pale shadows rested on each downcast face,  
The gloom of grief, the midnight cloud of fear;  
And troubled spirits looked from flashing eyes  
As when the soul has parted with disguise.

All were as him who once his dwelling made  
Among the tombs in old Judea's land,  
Restless and wandering, sullen and afraid,  
The image broken by the Maker's hand;  
Reason in fragments, hope and memory fled.  
Or blent in wild fantastic net-work there;  
A hundred stricken prisoners bowed the head  
In shame and sorrow, anger and despair:  
Madness within—the fever of the soul—  
Bending life's will and power to its control.

Yet, as of old, to them the message came,  
Peace and goodwill through Christ our offering  
Given,  
Ransom for sorrow, majesty for shame,  
Through the great Intercessor, now in heaven.