

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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THE Synod of our Church meets at Toronto on the first Wednesday of this month. The place of meeting should insure the presence of a large number of members, and it is to be hoped that the ruling Elders appointed as representatives of the Sessions throughout the bounds of the Synod, will see it their duty to attend and take part in the deliberations. Many most important questions must come up for discussion, and not the least important of these is the state of the Home Mission Fund; the necessity for obtaining additions to the number of students for the ministry; the best means of reaching the yet neglected fields of labour lying at our very doors, and which are neglected because we have no labourers to send, this again being caused by a lack of any assured support for those who may, after years of careful study and preparation, be called upon to starve on a stipend which a fourth-rate clerk would refuse, and which a respectable mechanic would laugh at if offered to him. The very gratifying financial result of the appeal made on behalf of Queen's College cannot but excite the most lively feeling of thankfulness, but the want of theological students is not yet supplied. That must be made by other means, and it is for the Synod to deliberate earnestly and prayerfully on this point.

The report of the Committee appointed to confer on the subject of the union with other Presbyterian Churches has been published in full, and we trust has been carefully considered. Let each man regard the subject in its various bearings, divesting himself on the one hand of the unthinking desire for gregariousness, as if that were itself an unmixed good, and on the other hand of an opposition purely for its own sake. Let those who take opposite sides remember that there is something to be said on both, and that no decision can lead to either unmixed good or evil. That there

are obstacles to the projected union cannot admit of a doubt. It will be matter for deep regret, if any action on the part of those who urge its consummation without regard to the removal of these, should lead to bitter feeling in the minds of the adherents of our Church who cannot view the subject with their eyes.

Steps should be taken to infuse new vigour into the French Canadian Mission. The Committee have been doing their work earnestly, and, so far as their means go, have done it well. But the dissensions among the French Canadian religious press and the squabbling among the Roman Catholic Archbishop and Bishops in Lower Canada, are stirring up a spirit of enquiry among a population which has hitherto remained dull and unmoved. Seeing the published opinions of the prelates diametrically opposed to each other, they are beginning to enquire "What is truth?" Opportunities are arising for the dissemination of Gospel truth, which ought to be taken advantage of as far as possible.

Is it needful to recapitulate the business to come before the Synod? We have merely glanced at one or two of the topics, but we pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and direct all the counsels of the Supreme Court of our Church, that its decisions may be for His glory and for the good of the country at large.

THE Presbyterian Church in the United States, at the meeting held in Philadelphia last year, when the union of the two branches took place, left to a Committee of twenty-one, the consideration of the best method of conducting what are called the benevolent or organizations of the two Churches. In both of the Churches these organizations had corporate powers, and most of them held important trusts, some