

to answer this question fully; we note, however, two points in this connection—(1st.) the lack of men is to be accounted for to some extent by the fact that many of the ministers of our Church are so poorly remunerated. In 1871 there were 113 of our ministers receiving less than \$600 each per annum, and in 1872, 29 with stipends under \$500. Some of the men from whom many of these ministers carried off prizes and scholarships at Colleges, are to-day in receipt of annual incomes of thousands of dollars in other professions—law, medicine, &c. Nay, many-day laborers in Canada last year earned their \$600 and upwards, and yet these ministers, after spending money, time and energy for seven or eight long years, to fit themselves for their master's work, are toiling year by year, barely above starvation point.

Until the Church shows herself worthy of the self-sacrificing spirit of her ministers by placing them all out of the reach of embarrassment and need, there are many young men in our land who will not enter the ministry, who otherwise might.

The contributions of our people to aid our Mission Stations and to increase the grants to our supplemented charges, I am convinced, might be doubled, aye, multiplied four fold, and no one perceptibly find himself poorer at the year's end.

It cannot be pleasing to the Lord of the Vineyard that many of His laborers are so miserably and meanly cared for.

(2nd.) While believing that the above named cause prevents many from entering the Ministry, there are doubtless other young men who only need to have their minds fairly directed to the subject, and to the urgent need of additional laborers in the Lord's vineyard. Pastors and parents might do much in encouraging suitable persons to enter upon the work.

The remarks are highly suggestive, touch on many points which have begun to force themselves on the notice and consideration of the church in the Lower Provinces, and are worthy of careful examination, by all who feel an interest in the prosperity and progress of Christ's cause among us.

### WEEK OF PRAYER.

The Evangelical Alliance has issued its annual invitation to prayer. The week chosen is that which commences Jan. 4, 1874, and closes on the following Lord's Day. The Committee say:

BELOVED BRETHREN OF ALL NATIONS,  
—It is again our duty and privilege to

summon you to join in the customary WEEK OF INTERCESSION which for many years Christians of different nations and languages have agreed to observe. It is cheering to mark, as the years roll on, how this call to prayer meets with a more general and hearty response, and each successive year is ushered in by a wider and more extended gathering of the children of God around the throne of the heavenly grace. The remembrance of many hallowed seasons, when our devotions were led by venerated and beloved servants of God, who now rest from their labours, and have exchanged prayer for praise, cannot but endear to us those occasions of cultivating and enjoying the Communion of Saints. Nor do the circumstances of the day in which we live permit the thought of relaxing in the earnestness and importunity of our prayers. All around us are symptoms which may well awaken grave and anxious thoughts in Christian hearts. The agitation and unrest of nations, the rise and fall of empires, the rapid and sudden revolutions of opinion, the anti-social and anti-Christian elements known to be fermenting among the masses, the widespread diffusion and sceptical ideas, the hostile attitude of modern science towards everything supernatural, the startling developments of an unscriptural and superstitious Ritualism; and, not least, the astute and audacious struggles of Popery to recover its authority over the minds of men,—all together constitute such a plea for prayer as no intelligent and thoughtful mind can fail to recognize. The most effective reply which the faithful disciples of Christ can give to the scornful taunt, 'What profit is there in prayer?' is by a more fervent and energetic appeal to Him 'that heareth prayer.' The most hopeful method of frustrating the pernicious schemes of foolish or wicked men is by engaging the arm of Omnipotence against them. The constant lesson which the Word of God teaches the believer in his warfare with the forces of evil, is, 'Fear them not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.' 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.' At the same time there is much to excite gratitude and encourage hope. Never was the world so open to the entrance of the Gospel. The ancient barriers of inveterate prejudice have been broken down; Oriental nations are awakening from the deep slumber of ages, and are turning wistful eyes towards the mysterious wisdom and power of the West. The Missionary and the Bible enter with the engineer and the merchant. Be it ours to pray that all these things may fall out to the furtherance