

themselves consecrate to him. To a large extent, the ministry is what the churches make it. They reap as they sow. We refer now not so much to the inadequate remuneration commonly afforded, but to the lack of proper encouragement otherwise to young men of promise to enter that work. The Lord alone can call and qualify men for it, but that he often does by putting it into the hearts of godly parents, as he did into the heart of the mother of Samuel, to dedicate their sons unto him from their infancy. But how few, comparatively, think of this! Christian father, have *you* done it? You want our pulpits to be occupied by the best talent the country can afford. Are you willing that *your son*—the flower of your flock—shall forego the honours and emoluments of the law, or of medicine, or of commerce, and devote himself to the ministry? Have you prayed the Lord to accept him?

The truth is, the great lack of the church is not so much great preachers as good hearers; not oratory in the pulpit, but piety in the pew. Let the worshipper come to the sanctuary hungry and thirsting after righteousness, and he will seldom find much fault with the sermon, if only it set forth the great themes of the gospel. That will be to him "a feast of fat things," richer by far to his quickened appetite than anything which genius or eloquence can offer without it. "If you want good preaching," says one, "do not leave all the preparation to be done by the preacher. If it be his duty to prepare to preach, it is equally your duty to prepare to hear. How much better a man can preach when he feels that he has the full sympathy of his audience; when prayer ascends from every heart, and praise sounds forth from every voice! Then the stripling does the work of a giant, and God's word has its desired effect." The Lord give us all "ears to hear!"

THE LONDON MISSIONARY DEPUTATION.

It affords us great gratification to announce that the postponement of the Evangelical Alliance meeting in New York is not, after all, to deprive us of the visit of the distinguished English brethren who were expected to represent the Congregational Union and London Missionary Society on that occasion. The Revs. Dr. Mullens and Henry Allon have arrived, and cordially accept the appointments which have been made for them. As their stay in this country will necessarily be very limited, it is obviously impossible for them to do more than pay a flying visit to the cities and larger towns of Ontario and Quebec, and we hope, therefore, that churches in the immediate neighbourhood of their appointments will endeavour to be present and swell the numbers which