

a cent. Let us not through a false charity decline, nor through pride despise the small offerings of the poor.

2. We learn that general contributions for religious objects are not novelties in the Church of Christ. Liberality is coeval with want. The contribution and collection of money, in the house of God, and among his people for the promotion of his glory, is no innovation, no unauthorized, no unapproved work. It is an old custom in the Church; it has the Saviour's approval, it has apostolic injunction and practice in its favour.

3. We cannot judge of the liberality of contributions merely by their amount. A half dime for one person is more than a half dollar for another. The rule of giving is, not that I should give a little more or a little less than my neighbours, but that I should give as the Lord enables me, or as he has prospered me. And "two-mite" contributions not made according to the rule, cannot come in for a share in the Saviour's commendation. Many persons get into the habit of giving a certain sum, from year to year. Their property may have doubled in amount in the mean time. The scripture rule requires that their contribution should be doubled too. If this poor widow's little store were doubled, her two mites offering would grow to four; her gifts would be still a measure and acknowledgement of God's prospering favour. So let it be with us, Christian reader. As God crowns us with mercies committing to our stewardship great blessings, let us humbly, promptly, liberally acknowledge his kindness, by offerings to his cause.

J F. M.

OUR AGGRESSIVE WORK IMPEDED.

The dearth of candidates is *impeding our aggressive work in the world*. Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost. He bled and died to redeem the elect out of every tribe, and kindred, and tongue, and people. The travail of his soul was for the spiritual destiny of a world; and in order that his gospel might be proclaimed to every creature he appointed the ministry of reconciliation, with a commission authenticated by the very act of ascension to his throne. The Church comes short of its high purpose, when its power of aggression is impaired. Wo, wo, must rest upon it, when it cannot give light to them that sit in darkness!

In view of the statistics of our history

the present situation of the Presbyterian Church is calculated to alarm its members. The peculiarity of that situation is, that the number of our theological students has not increased during a period of ten years—a third part of a whole generation. Our ministry has, indeed, increased in this period; because the supply of candidates as yet exceeds the deaths; but with no increase of the whole mass in the course of a few years be suspended. Such increase is even now small.

Nor is the calamity confined to our own body. It extends to our sister churches. The complaint is heard from every side that, whilst the harvest is great, *the labourers are few*. The aggressive strength of the Church, on which its prosperity so materially depends, is undergoing a loss, and the cause of Christ languishes. With death on one side, and a failure on the other to fill up the ranks in sufficient numbers, a lamentation, applicable to our condition, is "Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth, the faithful fail from among the children of men."—*American Record*.

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MR. JAMES FOWLER, } Teachers.
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BRANCHES TAUGHT.

Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, &c., Mr. Munro.

Classics, History, &c., Mr. Fowler.

Initiatory Department, Mr. McKay.

JAMES H. FIDDELL,

Sec'y to College & Academy Board.

Halifax, Aug. 19th, 1853.