

bring into the church; and young men in the churches, with ministerial gifts, whom He can "thrust forth" into the work.

We thank God that His good Spirit is working among us. Some additions will be made to the college classes this year; and we hear of others on the way. If we wait on God aright, He will hear us!

And let liberal giving accompany prayer; and this, not only to the college for the ministry of the future, but likewise to the ministry of the present. Dr. Vaughan's paper, read to the English College Conference, which we reproduce below, lays a skilful finger upon some very sore spots in the working of our system. The precariousness of a Congregational minister's position, its dependence on popular favour, its poverty, its frequently unrecognized dignity and value, and its doubtful prospect for old age, all tell with deadly power in keeping back our young men from that post. Read the words of this wise man, deacons and members, and deal truly and wisely with the pastors you have, lest the succession fail!

---

## ON THE CHARACTER OF OUR MINISTRY,

AS AFFECTED BY THE ESTIMATE OF MINISTERIAL SERVICE IN OUR CHURCHES.

My impression is, that in the organizations among us as Congregationalists, our Colleges present the department which the least needs mending, and which might be the most safely left to shape itself according to circumstances. Here, more almost than anywhere, experience is the teacher to whose authority we are obliged to conform ourselves. We may sketch plans of study on paper of a very high description or a very low one, but after all the material we have to work upon will determine how far we shall adhere to such schemes. It is useless, worse than useless, to attempt to impose an elevated curriculum on minds which you can never elevate; and it would be not only unwise, but cruel, to restrict yourself to a low curriculum where there is capacity for something much higher—and these gradations of capacity exist in every body of students in every College. Given the men—the right men, to be taught, and to provide the right sort of teaching will not be difficult.

With me, accordingly, the question which lies at the root of this whole matter, is—how are such men to be obtained? Up to within the last seven years the great want of our Colleges had been, for some while past, the want of men, and the quantity of the supply being so deficient the quality of it was much less scrutinised than it would otherwise have been. Since then, from some cause which I hardly know how to explain, the quantity has increased, so that all our Colleges have been full. How it is with quality of this larger supply I do not know. But I do know that everywhere the condition of our ministry, whether in great cities or in scattered towns and villages, is a very poor affair except as the minister happens to be possessed with a strong passion to acquire knowledge, and a no less potent passion to communicate it.

To a thoughtful man the relation between the estimate of ministerial service in our Churches and the character of our ministry is very perceptible. The measure in which our Churches evince the low appreciation of the work of the ministry, is the measure in which the men who enter our ministry will be men of a very humble fitness for it. Your Colleges may be perfect, but that