

directing it so as to hit the mark and do execution. Truth should certainly be taught as fully and thoroughly as possible, but surely it is at least equally important that the best method of using it for the accomplishment of the ends which its declaration is designed to serve should also be fully and thoroughly taught. If but meagre instruction is given in applying the truth and sending it home to the heart and conscience, much of the labor and expense incurred in acquiring it is little better than wasted. Hence we hope that a change is about to take place, and that when the endowment scheme so propitiously launched, has been consummated, one of the first things that will be done will be to make a more adequate provision for the homiletical and elocutionary training of those who are to fill in the future the pulpits of our Church. Institute a lectureship in elocution. Establish, say we, at the very earliest moment possible, a chair of homiletics. There is enough in the latter department to fully engage the energies and abilities of a professor throughout the whole period allotted for theological studies. We know of no position at present unoccupied which, if well filled, would be of greater practical usefulness to the ministry and the Church. The Church can flourish only by the effective preaching of the Word, and to that a proper knowledge of homiletics is mightily helpful. Endow the chair, and we are prepared with a nomination.

VICANUS.

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WE call the attention of our readers to the advertisements in this issue. The firms represented may be depended upon to satisfactorily fill any orders they may receive.

HOW SHALL WE SECURE MORE MEN FOR THE WORK OF THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?

BY THE REV. H. H. M'PHERSON, M.A.,
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THAT more men for the work of the Christian ministry are *needed* there can be no question. Down here in the Synod of the Maritime Provinces we have some thirty vacant congregations and twenty-four mission-fields. For the supply of these congregations and mission fields we have only nine or ten probationers and thirteen theological students. We ought to have thirty probationers without delay; and in order to meet the demand which is continually arising we ought to have in our Theological Hall, at least from twenty to twenty-five students every year instead of thirteen—the number we now have, and which I believe, is not far below the average. It does seem lamentable that the Church in the Maritime Provinces supports three professors in Dalhousie College and three in Pine Hill Theological Hall, and yet should receive an annual return of not more than five young men prepared to enter upon the work of the ministry. It is more lamentable still that so many vacant charges and so many mission fields should be left, as for the most part they are, in utter spiritual destitution for want of men to break unto them the bread of life. The urgent cry then down here is, "more men!" So also is it in many other places: Montreal College, Queen's College, Knox College—in short, all our colleges—are calling for more men. From the colleges in the United States the same cry is sounded forth. The small number of candidates for the ministry formed one of the gravest subjects of discussion in the recent Synods of the Presby-