

much more abundant, the practice of giving assistance is exceedingly common. Not to speak of the College fellowships, scholarships, and exhibitions, which exist so abundantly in the Universities for behoof of those studying for the English Establishment, almost all the Dissenting denominations in England provide for their students more or less fully. In Scotland there are in all the Universities, Bursaries for Students in Divinity. The Free Church, it is well known, has large funds for a similar purpose. Most, if not all, bodies of Dissenters contribute liberally for the like object. And our own Church at home has, for a few years past, had recourse to substantially the same thing. For her Scholarships, on which a good many hundred pounds are annually expended, while they were intended to excite emulation, and lead to proficiency in study, and have, in that respect, been eminently successful, were primarily and chiefly designed to aid meritorious youths in their struggles with straitened circumstances.

It can scarcely be necessary to point out to you, that the reasonableness of offering assistance to our students in Divinity is greatly increased by a change we have just made, as to the period of their yearly attendance at the Hall. We have deemed it advisable to change the Session from the unhealthy, and, in many respects, inconvenient season of autumn, to winter, and also to extend it over more than double the length of time. From this arrangement we fondly anticipate many and great advantages; but on two accounts it will obviously furnish a strong additional plea for pecuniary aid to the Students. It will greatly augment their unavoidable expenditure, and it will proportionally curtail their time and opportunities for acquiring means of support for themselves.

The present circumstances of Canada might also be referred to as furnishing a strong argument for something special being done in this way. It is notorious that the expense of living is at present, and in the opinion of many is likely to continue for some time, very great. This, of course, presses severely on Students, in common with all others who have their own maintenance to provide for. Indeed, it has been alleged by some, possessing the best opportunities of judging, that the extraordinary amount of sickness and infirm health prevailing in our Hall must be attributed, in no small degree, to the mode in which our Students find it necessary to live. At all events, it is certain that some of them have been obliged to practise a self-denial, subject themselves to privations, and endure hardships which it is not creditable to the Church to allow brethren to experience, who, for the Church's good and the honour of the Church's Head, have, in the choice of their profession, made a sacrifice for life, which comparatively few can be induced to make. Then, on the other hand, the very fact that the articles of consumption are just now so high-priced, puts it into the power of at least a large proportion of the members of our Church to make munificent contributions for this and all similar objects. Providence is thus at once making a special call, and furnishing the means of complying with it. A devout and grateful heart, we trust, will promptly and cheerfully respond.

It is readily admitted that all such schemes, unless judiciously managed, are calculated to be productive of evil. Unspeakable mischief is done, when, by such aid as is here contemplated, youths destitute of talents, energy, and zeal, are induced to come forward for the ministry. It is, even, no small evil when assistance of this kind is offered in such a manner as to destroy a young man's feeling of independence and self-respect. We trust, however, we shall be enabled to devise some satisfactory method for preventing these inconveniences. The smallness of the sums likely to be bestowed, in the first instance at least, will probably be a tolerable guarantee against any corrupting or deteriorating influence.

We now, dear Brethren, beseech you to take this matter into your deliberate and serious consideration, and to do as your judgment and conscience direct, and as you believe that God and your own mind will approve when called to