

reapers, and of frequent and earnest appeals for help from other lands. All the Parent churches in England and Scotland have been exhorted to by letters and delegates with a view to the year for a harvest of the heathen Fathers.

PARENTAL DUTY.

It is a duty which we are trusting God will not neglect. It is a duty which may do, nor yet be able to do, more of our own Home Mission Board, to meet the present emergency, would still record their conviction, and ask the church to consider it well, that, under God, we must look to *our own Christian people* for our pastors, and for our Home and Foreign Missionaries. It is a shame and a reproach to us that we have to go begging for spiritual labourers. Had it been, for the past ten years, the practice of our Christian fathers and mothers, in our cities, towns, villages and rural settlements, to think and speak of the work of preaching Christ to sinners, as the noblest of employments, and to encourage the best talent of their families to choose it, we had not come as a church to our present humiliating condition. Had even a small proportion of the fathers of our fifteen thousand families earnestly pled like the father of Dr. Geddie, that God would accept a son, and employ him in a work that angels might envy, we would not be suffering from the grievous dearth of evangelical workmen.

CLAIMS OF GOD.

We must get back to first principles and primitive practice; and believing fully that the earth is the Lord's, and its people to be converted to the Lord, we must show ourselves as ready to share the toil of the conflict as to wear the crown of the victor. Christ calls all to take part in advancing His Kingdom—some to lead and some to follow, some to teach and others to be taught, some to act as shepherds and others to be fed, defended and improved by pastoral discipline, while all are to account that what is given for the advancement of the Lord's work, becomes ours in the highest and best sense, and, whether sons or daughters, or the mammon of unrighteousness, will befriend us, and witness for our reception into everlasting habitations.

The original arrangement, under the old economy, required the first born in every family in Israel to be set apart for the priesthood; and the principle underlying the arrangement was, that God's claims were first, and His direct service best, and that, as the first born had been pre-eminently spared and redeemed, they were to be specially consecrated. The substitution of a tribute in lieu of the first born through all the land, leaves the great principles involved untouched.

That direct missionary (and pastoral work is still the highest and holiest of all vocations, is not, it is true, formally denied in our time, and among our people; but, practically, few parents show any real desire that their sons should serve God in the Christian ministry. Is it not true that even Christian parents grudge the expense of the preparatory training viewed in connection with the meagreness of subsequent pecuniary return? And is not the way to the Christian pastorate, thus closed in great measure, at the choosing age, against our youths, just by the want of ardent love to Christ and sinners on the part of their own parents?

THE SPIRIT FROM ON HIGH.

To correct and remedy this, deeper devotion and more earnest and active piety are required—in other words, a revival of true religion, by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in answer to prayer—and, in connection with this, the thorough persuasion that God's way to propagate and extend Christianity and the Christian church, is by the *children of Christian people consecrated to His service, and trained for the work*. Peers and prize-fighters may suddenly become heralds of the great salvation, and may attract thousands by their earnest eloquence, or untutored declaration of what God has done for them; but such cases are exceptional, and not our rule of action. It remains for the children who are early trained in the sanctuary of the home and house of God, who become our young men of piety and promise, to avail themselves of the highest culture within their reach, and prepare to follow the foot steps of apostles and evangelists of the Cross, who were set for the diffusion, as well as for the defence, of the Gospel. By the necessities of the church at home, by the wants and woes of millions in the darkness of heathenism, by the worthlessness of earth's distinctions and riches, when won by shrinking from the high call of duty and of God—by the grandeur and glory of Christ's work, and Christ's promised reward, we would invoke these two classes, the parents and the youths in our church, to weigh their privileges and responsibilities in connection with the advancement of the Kingdom of Grace.

THE HUNTER PRIZES.

The Board and Professors noticed, with much interest, the beneficial influence of the Competition called forth by the Hunter prizes during the past year. The results were highly creditable to all the competing students, and gave a perceptible impetus to their study of New Testament Greek. The books selected were the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistle to the Romans. The examinations were conducted by written papers, and included a trial of skill and