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Ottawa, Wednesday, 10th April, 1901.

Some of our ministers are stock taking now. The report will depend to a very large extent upon what they set out to do, and what they have been keeping in mind during the past winter. The men whose highest ambition has been to win the goodwill of those to whom they have preached will be disappointed, and they deserve to be.

Three months ago there was a very general conviction that we were upon the eve of a great spiritual awakening. It has not yet reached us, and the desire for it is fading. Has it presented itself, and have we been unable to discern the signs of the times, and allowed it to slip past us? Certainly if it came it did not wear the old dress. But is that necessary?

Trouble arose in a prosperous congregation in Central Ontario. Some seed of evil had been dropped, and managed to secure foothold. It fastened itself upon the minister, and finally squeezed him out of his charge. Not content with this it wormed itself between the congregations comprising the charge, and separated them, so that united work was impossible, and the presbytery discussed permanent separation. But better counsels prevailed. A man of good judgment, who understood the situation went in there. Both congregations liked him. The presbytery's representative quietly asked him to remain with the people and work with them three months. He did so, and then the people united and called him. That is far better than fighting or coercing the people. That charge by judicious management, by a somewhat continuous service, and by a considerable amount of hard pastoral work is again prosperous and ready for good work. All honor to the man who has done the work; but the method might well be applied in many other instances where the Lord's work is being hindered.

NEW WORKMEN.

Thirty five young men, who have spent the greater part of their life so far in preparation for the work of the ministry, have received the diplomas of their several colleges during the past week, and are looking forward to entrance upon their life work. In some tentative way most of them have already taken part in that which will now occupy their whole attention. With the vast mission field to man year after year, there is a demand for workmen and the students of the various colleges give ready response to the call. So it comes that when at length they ask for the approval of the Presbyteries and their licensure that shall entitle them to seek for call to any charge, they come not as raw recruits, but as men who have seen service, and know something of its demands. The practical training thus received is of great advantage to them, though one hesitates to endorse anything that shall interfere with study while that is the main object in view.

Many calls meet the young man who graduates this year. There is a growing demand for a highly educated ministry. Men do not want finely polished periods but are asking for some one who has been over the disputed ground in theological opinion to day, who knows it at first hand, and who can inspire confidence, when speaking of it. The man of the world hears the din of the dispute. He cannot take part in it, for his own business engrosses his time. But he wants to know something of what it all means. He wants to know what it all amounts to. He longs for some man who has travelled it, and with whom he may talk face to face. This call for men who will follow in the path of knowledge, and come back and tell what they have found has reached the men who leave the class rooms this spring. Three at least have heard it, and will answer it so far as they can. They go from our own to other seats of learning, and we shall listen with interest for their report when they return.

The call from abroad for men to come with the gospel of peace and good will to men is also insistent. The doors that were temporarily closed are again swinging open. New doors are continually being opened in other lands. The demand for messengers to enter them has never yet been fully met. This call has also been heard. Three more of the men have given answer to it, and will take their places as soon as it shall be assigned them, among those who have given life to tell the glad news, to men of other climes and color than our own.

There is another call that during the last two years has been gathering strength. It is the call from the newer parts of the home land, from the defiles of the mountains, from the northern forests, from the plains, from all the outlying districts. This call too has been heard, and four of the men have answered. Here am I.... send me. Two will go to British Columbia, two will remain this side the Rocky Mountains,

Still another voice is being heard, not as yet strong or insistent, but it has made itself known this year. It is the call for men to assist an ageing minister, or a minister whose work has so grown upon his hands that he cannot overtake it. We are persuaded that this voice will grow in strength. It articulates a need. It tells of a privilege. The minister who has tried to overtake the work of a congregation numbering one thousand and more is acknowledging defeat. He is looking for relief and the assistant will meet it. The student who has devoted himself to study closely, and who graduates with little practical knowledge of the great work of a congregation wants some practical school for post-graduate study. This is offered in a well-equipped congregation, where, under the careful eye of a man of mature judgment he will learn more in six months than five years of his own blundering would have taught him. After two or three years spent in this practical College he will be ready to utilize to the best advantage the knowledge gained in the years at College and in the ministry as an assistant.

In a letter from the gallery of the House of Commons, the Editor of the London Advertiser makes mention of a gentleman in whom many of our readers are interested. He says: "To come back to the present House, one of the younger of the new members recently received from Principal Grant, of Queen's University, a note of friendly advice and commendation, which I had the privilege of being allowed to read. Principal Grant is noted for the kindly interest which never loses sight of a student after he leaves college, and there are few shrewder critics and advisers. The principal's advice to the younger member contained the following pointers: "Don't be afraid of speaking in the House. Speak often, but briefly, till you get familiarized with the chamber, the audience, the atmosphere; and never speak without having something to say; and when it is said, always with a good temper, sit down." Were these golden words hung up before the eyes of every speaker, and by no means of parliamentarians alone, it would mean a considerable diminution in the burden of human unhappiness."

We wonder, remarks the Canadian Baptist, if there are very many men in our churches who are generous with other people's money only after the following fashion: A special subscription was being taken up in a certain church to meet a pressing need. One old gentleman was observed passing the paper on without subscribing anything. When all that would, had put down their names, it was found that only one half of the amount needed had been pledged. One man proposed that each one should double his subscription. Then this non-subscriber composedly stood up and said: "I second that motion." It is easy to be liberal with other people's money. But we do not think "non-subscriber" could be duplicated in many congregations.