

it appears that we have one too many, and he has to leave his country to get an appointment to the heathen world from another church.

But what about supply at home? Let the following facts reply:

First. At the last meeting of the Committee for the distribution of preachers, presbyteries asked for sixteen preachers to meet ordinary wants. On the list were twelve, but one was located at Little Bay, Newfoundland, and there was notice that three, Messrs. Thorpe, Rogers, and Forbes, would leave this month to take an extra theological session in Scotland, reducing the number to one-half of what was wanted. This deficiency was partially met, or rather helped, by the services of two or three ordained ministers, not on the list, but willing to give at least occasional assistance.

But *Secondly.* About six active earnest men are wanted to be located for a year or more in as many distinct and special fields. The Presbytery of Miramichi wants two, one for Metapedia and vicinity and one for the lumber camps within that Presbytery. The Presbytery of St. John is desirous of employing one in its large Home Mission field to itinerate and organize. The Presbytery of Halifax wishes two, one for Wolfeville and Lower Horton and the other for Lawrencetown, Cow Bay and Porter's Lake. The Presbytery of Newfoundland asks one for Bay of Islands.

Here are six men wanted and not one can be spared from the ordinary supply required by Presbyteries without leaving vacant congregations, as Mabou, Noel, and probably some others have been already left this summer with scarcely monthly service from probationers; and again the question comes up, where are the men? From what quarter are we to expect them?

STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY WANTED!

I answer the question just asked, with the reply, the men are in our Christian homes, they are to come from our own

families. How the present urgent need is to be met it is difficult to say, but it is almost certain that it will *not be fully met*. Such men as are called for and wanted cannot be quickly obtained.

But the want is ever recurring and provision must be made to meet it in the future. Unless we use the means, and all means within our power, we are presumptuous in expecting the desired end. We have indeed, by efforts past and in progress, provided the means of education, but what have we done to lead promising young men to give themselves to the work of the ministry? How many parents have shown a desire to have a son engaged in Christian work and college training, with a view to missionary service? How many ministers in their visitations in families and schools, have watched for the buddings of piety, and the indications of talent and speaking power, with effort to pre-engage them for the Lord's work? We have rather been assuming that because ministers are not man-made, that we have nothing to do but to wait. And so it has happened in fact, that we have congregations not a few, which have never furnished a student of theology, and there are hundreds of wealthy families who have never given, nor sought to give, a minister to the Church or to the Lord who bought them.

A good man lately in a vacant charge, which the writer was supplying for a day, remarked on learning that there would be no preaching next Lord's day, "We haven't got enough preachers yet I think." No; have you tried to give a son to serve the Lord as a preacher? "No." Has the congregation? "I don't know—well I think not," was the answer; and my rejoinder was, and can you be surprised at the scarcity of preachers? He changed the subject. There are many in the Church who would be silenced by these two questions. Piety, perseverance and prayer, brought to bear on this subject would do much if combined and well directed.

Our congregations and Christ's cause