

to general qualifications, who have been educated in Britain. For, recent as the population of the Province is, and possessing as it does many characteristics of that of the Mother Country, it has yet a character of its own, in many important respects, distinct, on account of its mixed origin, and the circumstances which are peculiar to it as a young community. Hence, our preachers on their first arrival in the Province, even when amongst those who have migrated from Scotland at an early period, and still more when amongst the descendants of such, or emigrants from other parts, find themselves to be in some respects amongst a strange people; and they in like manner have something of the character of foreigners to the population. So that there is for a time a want of sympathy in each others views and feelings on many subjects; and the preacher is at once the less comfortable, and the less fitted to put forth the full influence of his office and character on the community. Ministers educated from amongst our own Provincial youths would have no such drawback on their usefulness; and they would have a more palpable advantage in their physical training, which would prepare them for the hardships incident to Missionary and Ministerial service in Canada.

SECONDLY,—It should be known throughout the Church, that there are now, in some congregations, individuals desirous of entering into the Ministry, and to demand of such an education in a Scottish University, would be a virtual barring of the door to their admission. Such individuals are not, it is true, known to be numerous; but unquestionably more of our pious youths would direct their attention to the Ministry, if means for a suitable education were within their reach. It may be safely affirmed, that the number of persons in a Church, who aspire to the Ministry from right motives, forms a fair test of the success, which God gives to the ministration of the word and ordinances in that Church; and it seems equally plain, that if a Church deny to such persons all opportunity of qualifying themselves for the Ministry, and of actually entering upon it, it is in the very way of counteracting the work of God, and cannot but provoke his displeasure. In this view of the matter, the present condition of our Church in these Provinces, destitute as she is of a school for the Prophets, may well awaken serious alarm. Many direct evils may be seen to be connected with the present system of obtaining Ministers. A certain nationality of character is induced on our Church, which by no means befits the origin of a great proportion of those who compose it: and in this way also, the Church is severed from many generous sympathies of the general population, and commends itself only to the national predilections of those who are of Scottish descent. The Church with a ministry purely Scottish, cannot acquire a Provincial character, and neither can it grow with the growth of the community; while in the changes to which a Colonial State is peculiarly liable,

it incurs a risk of being altogether overturned. Church history, it is believed, furnishes no example of the establishment of Christianity in a country, by means of the continued use of a foreign Ministry. Indeed, it has become an established maxim in the conducting of Christian Missions, that, the sooner that the converts of a country can be trained for the Ministry, the sooner may its evangelization be expected.

THIRDLY,—The commencement of a Seminary in the Colony for the education of Ministers, has become, in some measure, a matter of necessity.

The supply of preachers from Scotland has hitherto been very scanty and has rather tended to shew the extent of the want of Ministers than met that want: and, while for these several years past, the people have been more alive to a sense of their destitution of divine ordinances, the supply of preachers has been actually diminishing. This is attributable partly to the greater demand at home for able preachers, caused by the establishment of town and city missions, and the erection of new churches; and partly, it must be confessed, to the inadequate remuneration made to ministers in this Province. On the latter of these grounds only, is the diminished supply of Ministers from Scotland to be lamented. Let us rejoice, that the services of the best of her preachers are given to the culture of her own moral wastes. And how painful soever the consideration is, that ministers of the gospel in this land are very slenderly and inadequately paid, far from us be the thought, that the great work of bringing its people into the kingdom of God's dear Son, must stop, or even be abandoned by us. Let ours be the determined purpose to devote ourselves more entirely to this work; and then, we may without presumption assure ourselves, that the Master whom we serve, shall not leave us unrequited even in this life. As the Church gains a hold of the community we cannot doubt, that its ministers will be provided for.

The Glasgow Colonial Missionary Society may be regarded as the principal provider of preachers for the Scottish Presbyterian Churches of British North America: and yet, it furnished for Upper Canada only one laborer during the past year; while applications had been sent to them, from each Presbytery for one or two missionaries, with engagements for their support; and they had been pressed by the corresponding Secretary to send a still greater number of missionaries of their own, in order to meet the actual necessities of the Province, the directors of this excellent society, it should be known, deeply lament their inability to meet the demands which our missionary fields and vacant congregations make upon them, and they freely confess, it arises more from the aversion of suitably qualified preachers to come hither, than from the scantiness of their funds. If then, we would not see our mission stations abandoned, and congregations scar-