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# NOVA SCOTIA Church Chronicle.

VOL. II.

HALIFAX, MARCH, 1866.

No. 3

*"Ad profectum sacrosanctæ matris ecclesiæ."*

## SCARCITY OF CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

THERE are few subjects attracting attention at the present time of more vital importance than the supply of candidates for the Ministry. From all parts of the world, wherever a branch of the Church of England has been planted, the cry is heard for more laborers in the vineyard. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." There is no want of spheres of labor, no difficulty in finding congregations ready to receive instruction: the great difficulty is to find a sufficient number of duly qualified men, earnestly devoted to the promotion of the glory of God, and the salvation of souls. This difficulty is felt in England quite as much as in the Colonies, and has of late been one of the prominent subjects for consideration at various clerical gatherings in the mother country. At the recent General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, it was proposed that a clause should be added to the Litany, praying for an increase of the Ministry. The same want is felt by ourselves. It is true that an unprecedented number of candidates have been admitted to Holy Orders in this diocese during the past three or four years, and that we are perhaps in a better condition in this respect than most of the dioceses of British North America; yet no one who is even moderately acquainted with the state of the Church in Nova Scotia can be ignorant that very much is yet to be done; that there are new positions to be occupied, as well as old missions to be assisted or divided. If we had the men and the means, it would be an easy matter to find employment for twice the number of clergy at present on our lists.

To what cause is this state of things to be attributed? How is it to be remedied? What is the duty of Churchmen at this crisis? These questions are more easily asked than answered. We will, however, endeavor to answer them with especial reference to our own particular case.

The state of things into which we are about to enquire is this. By the providence of God there has been planted in this province a Branch of the Church of England and Ireland, the purest portion, as we believe, of the Catholic Church on earth. Some fifty thousand persons represent themselves as members of this communion. These are to be found in all parts of the province. To provide for the spiritual wants of these we have some seventy clergy engaged in the active performance of their duties. Many of these clergymen have to travel over a wide extent of country in the discharge of their Ministry, and are thus prevented from exercising that constant pastoral superintendence of each part of their flock which is desirable. Much time and