

During recent years young men from our own churches have, in ever-increasing numbers, been responding to what they believe to be the call of God, and have given themselves to the Gospel ministry. Within five years forty-nine graduates from McMaster University, and eight brethren whose age, circumstances or inclination led them to decide on partial courses, have been ordained. Last year twenty-three men were ordained, and this year ten brethren leave the University to settle as pastors of churches in Ontario and Quebec. God is removing a barrier that greatly hindered progress in the past, and making it possible for us to enter the new fields that are opening up so rapidly. Alarm is felt and expressed by some brethren lest the supply of pastors may exceed the demand, and that brethren of years, refined experience, and godliness, may be crowded out of our pulpits by the younger and better educated men. We do not know what of change and adjustment the future may bring, but we know that all hearts loyal to Jesus Christ devoutly pray that the Baptist pulpits in this Dominion may be occupied by the most capable, godly, and consecrated men that the churches can secure. The dominant thought and desire of all true men are that strength and beauty may come to the churches. Moreover we do not believe that men "called of God," "apt to teach," "filled with the Holy Ghost and wisdom," and consumed with desire to see the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our Lord, shall ever be denied opportunity to exercise the gifts divinely bestowed on them. Let it be added, however, that the developments of the past few years constrain us to warn brethren against committing themselves lightly to the work of the ministry, and constrain us to beseech the churches to grant no man a license to preach, or a recommendation to pursue a course of study with a view to the ministry if, in their judgment, the applicant is lacking in qualifications that are essential to successful service in that department of work. Still more strongly do we appeal to the Ministerial Committee, and to ordination councils, to refuse recognition and ordination to brethren who cannot qualify themselves to meet the needs of the churches they propose to serve, and thus help to save good and true men from entering upon a course that must end in bitter disappointment and lifelong sorrow. To sincerity and piety must be added good mental ability, persuasive speech, capacity for leadership, and love amounting almost to passion for faithful pastoral work. The call of the churches for strong, capable men is urgent and

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