

sets forth the fact that there are at least one hundred and thirty fields of labour calling for supply, while we have comparatively few labours to send forth. Nine students have finished their studies, and will now be added to the effective force of the Church. But these will scarcely, in all probability, suffice to supply the vacancies which may arise in consequence of the death and retirement of ministers. During last year only one minister was really added to the number on the roll. And scarcely one additional labourer has arrived from other branches of the Church. The position of things is truly critical. The fact was lately pressed upon our attention, that while we have had for many years, the means of training young men for the ministry, there are some large congregations, yea cities in which there are several congregations, from which not one young man has come to enter the ranks of the ministry.

Where shall we look for a remedy? No doubt our great duty is to "pray the Lord of the harvest that He would thrust out labourers for his vineyard." But, without overlooking the importance of this duty, we would suggest that ministers in their pastoral visitations and in their friendly conferences with the young, should keep this in view and seek to direct the attention of suitable youth to the claims of the Saviour and his Church. Presbyteries too should look at this matter, and seek to offer encouragements to young men to give themselves to the Lord's work. In vain will the best schemes for mission work be drawn up, if there are not missionaries to put them in operation. We appeal to Christian parents who may have, under God, great influence in guiding the decisions of their children as to their life-work. Let them remind their children of their solemn dedication to God in baptism, and put faithfully before them the claims of the Church and of Christ. We appeal to the office-bearers and members of our congregations, who can do much to make the ministry more desirable, by manifesting more Christian sympathy, and more large-hearted consideration towards their ministers, and more abundant liberality in their support. We are not ashamed to make this appeal, nor do we allow that such an appeal argues a low and worldly view of matters. Ministers are but men. They have wants, personal and domestic, which can be relieved only in the same way in which those of others are relieved; and unquestionably not a few may be deterred from the work, by what they see of the struggles for bread, of many who occupy a prominent place in the Gospel ministry. Let congregations show a higher appreciation of the privilege of a Gospel ministry, and seek to do more for its honourable maintenance, and no doubt one obstacle will be removed, which may tend to prevent some from entering the Gospel ministry.

PROGRESS OF ANTI-SLAVERY VIEWS IN THE AMERICAN CHURCHES.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the present position of affairs in the United States, most, both here and in Britain, will be gratified by the progress, we may say the very decided and rapid progress of anti-slavery views among American Christians and Churches. Only a very few years ago the slightest allusion to the subject of slavery was sufficient to excite the strongest denunciations in the ecclesiastical assemblies. The Tract Society not only declined to publish on the subject, but sometimes even made alterations in the works which it brought out in order to suppress any implied condemnation of slavery. Now an entire change has been effected. The Tract Society speaks boldly in condemnation of the system of slavery. Most of the Churches have done the same. The following extract shows the extent of this gratifying progress. We may remark that the anti-slavery report to which reference is made in the subjoined extract was passed unanimously, the delegates from Maryland and other border states declining to vote against it.

"The Evangelical churches of this country have shown a surprising unanimity of opinion respecting the war, which has been forced upon us by the slave-