

but it is the same God which worketh all in all." What is to be desired is, that all would exercise for Christ, and for the spiritual good of their fellow creatures, the peculiar talents, which they have received, recognizing it not only as a duty but a privilege to glorify the Saviour, whose they are and whom they ought to serve. There is one department of work in connexion with our christian enterprises, in which a few right-hearted and right-minded laymen might do very great service to the cause,—we mean by rousing and fostering a spirit and habit of enlarged liberality. We do not mean to say that this matter should not be urged by ministers. But large-hearted christian laymen could do more even than ministers in this peculiar department of work.

May the great Head of the church pour out much of His spirit, and lead each in his and her special sphere to ask, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do."

#### PRAYER FOR THE COLLEGE.

"We have not, because we ask not," may not this be said with too much truth regarding our College? For thirteen years now efforts have been put forth to maintain it in an efficient state, and still it is not in the position we would desire. No doubt many a sincere prayer, in public and in private, has been offered on its behalf, and much good has been accomplished by it. But there is good ground to fear that our Institution has not that prominent place in the prayers of the church to which it is entitled. If we are straitened in money, if we have not men, if we do not see the measure of success which we desire; these things are to be attributed not to the poverty of our Christian people, not to the scarcity of suitable men, not to unwillingness in God to bless; but to the want of a prayerful and earnest consideration of the subject by the Church;—"we have not, because we ask not."

With joy therefore, we hail the appointment by Synod of a day for special prayer throughout the Church, on behalf of our Theological Institution, the first Sabbath in November. This action of the Synod, prompted we doubt not, by an earnest desire for the raising up of a faithful ministry in our land, combined with a humble sense of dependence on God, will awaken a more general and a deeper interest in our college. It is but obeying the Saviour's command, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his vineyard." It is but pleading with him his own promises, and we fervently hope that it will prove the precursor of rich blessing both to the College and the Church. Fervent prayer from hearts united with one accord, has power with God. Other Churches have been wont to observe such seasons, and they witness to a gracious answer vouchsafed. So shall we be able to witness, if in the spirit of true prayer we prove God.

In order that such a season may be properly improved, it will be necessary for every Minister to bring the subject formally and fully before the people. There should be an uncompromising exhibition of the duty of every Christian to do what he can to make the gospel known; an unsparing exposure of the guilt of neglecting that duty; and an earnest appeal to those who are blessed with gospel privileges, to arise in the spirit of Jesus, and if they cannot go themselves, to send others to preach the Gospel of the Grace of God.

It is not as a pauper asking alms, or a stranger begging a favour, that the Church should address her members on this subject; no, clothed with the authority of her ascended Head, she challenges every youth of suitable talents, who knows the Lord, and asks "How canst thou best serve thy Lord?" If the answer given before the heart-searching God be 'In the Ministry'—then, not only do we entreat that youth by the mercies of God, and the love of a bleeding Saviour; but we charge him in the name of God, to count all else but loss for Christ, and to give himself up to the work; and "woe to that young man if he preach not the Gospel."

The church in like manner, addresses every parent, trying with fond care to provide for an idolized son, and demands the first fruits for Christ. Other pursuits may appear preferable, the Law may hold out to talent the highest prize of influence and honor; Commerce may promise a golden harvest; comfort and ease may be within easy reach by numerous avenues,—but notwithstanding all these, we charge that parent, prayerfully to consider the Lord's work and glory, and to guard against prejudicing in any way the mind of his noble boy against the Ministry; we dare him to take his first-born, his glory, the beginning of his strength, from the Lord's service, and to leave only the maimed, the halt, the lame and the blind. Though the gospel ministry be a small matter in the eyes of the world, yet it is a mighty, a glorious work to the eye of faith,—it will tax the energies of the best, the noblest, the most promising, the most talented, and to keep these back because they are such, is to insult Jehovah.

We say not that every youth with suitable talents should be a minister; but we do say, that every converted youth is most solemnly bound seriously and prayerfully to ponder the question 'Can I most effectually serve God in the Ministry?' and if he can, then nothing should prevent him from doing so. There may be difficulties in the way, it may be necessary to exercise self denial, and forego certain prospects of earthly good; yet the right-minded Christian will count the cost, and face the difficulties cheerfully for Christ.

Nor is it men alone that the Church asks On the same high ground of privilege she

asks and looks for the needful pecuniary support. We address every professing Christian, 'Are you redeemed?' Then, constrained by the love of Christ, you are solemnly bound to give the Gospel to your fellow men. If you cannot preach yourself you must send others to preach; God raises up the men, your duty is (Eph. 4. 28.) to labour to procure means, and to give of your substance to educate these men and to fit them for the work. We do not beg money from you. Christians, but we tell you the Lord hath need of it; and when you shall give an account of your stewardship then you must say what you have done for your Lord in this respect.

Ministers, we fear, are not generally, decided enough or plain spoken in urging this duty. Sometimes smarting themselves from the trials of the Ministry, they feel averse to persuade others to follow them; but they should remember, that in declaring and pressing home duty, the faithful ambassador speaks not from his own feelings, but from the instructions he has received, "Thus saith the Lord."

With such an exposition of duty, and such an appeal, prayer will naturally be joined. If the soul of the preacher has been suitably moved in exhorting his people; and if he has succeeded in exciting sympathy in their hearts; then that same spirit that kindled the fire within, will readily find utterance in earnest prayer and supplication; no form of prayer will be needed. The great work to be accomplished, the various means appointed by God for that end, the difficulties to be overcome, the utter insufficiency of men, the all-sufficiency of God, the precious promises given to the Church, and the glorious issue of which we are assured—will readily find a place in the out-pourings of a full soul, and the enlarged hearts of God's people will ascend with one accord, and the blessing will descend.

The direct influence of God's spirit on the hearts both of those who pray, and for whom prayer is offered, is the principal result we expect; but besides this, many and great may be the indirect results. If young men lived among an earnest praying people, who were interested in the rising Ministry, how much more freely would they offer for the work! how much less would they fear discouragement! how much more earnestly would they study! how much more humble, self-denying, and zealous would they become! and how would the hands of the teachers be strengthened, if they felt that their work was not undervalued by the Christian people, but that they were regarded with interest, while upon them lay the grave responsibility, under God, of raising up in the Church an able, efficient, and acceptable Ministry.

We sincerely hope that in no congregation will the appointment of Synod be neglected. If it is faithfully attended to—we are no prophet, nor do we look for miracles, yet we shall expect to see substantial indications of a