

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

We purpose to address you this year on a subject of vital importance to our denomination. It is *united prayer* for the increase of gospel ministers.

This is Christ's own instruction. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest. Ministers are the gift of Christ, and he bestows them in answer to prayer. The experience of the church on this subject is clear and settled, whenever there has prevailed a spirit of prayer for an increase of Ministers, God has heard, and abundantly answered.

There are at present scores and hundreds of young men of talent, connected with our churches, whose purpose is to obtain an education. Why should not the churches set their hearts upon the consecration of these youths to the Ministry? It is not too much to ask of God; nor is it beyond the circle of his promise. They are *all* needed—not one of them can be spared.—Such is the condition of this country and of the world, that unless there be speedily a great addition to the number of our ministers, error and irreligion will become more bold, and will draw down the fierce indignation of the Almighty. It is our settled conviction that the raising up of young men for the ministry should form a prominent topic of remark in prayer, at our monthly concerts. Whilst the number of missionaries both at home and abroad is much smaller than the demand, and the work is greatly retarded for the want of more laborers, the voice of Providence calls upon us when we meet, to pray that the kingdom of God may come, very fervently to supplicate for an adequate increase of ministers.

Parents must consecrate their children to the work of the ministry by solemn prayer. Hannah of old consecrated her infant Samuel to the ministry. The mother of christian Frederic Swartz, on her dying bed, informed her husband and her pastor, that she had dedicated her son to the Lord, and obtained a promise from them, that her infant son should be trained in remembrance for this sacred desti-

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