

spread, and simultaneous operation will, we feel assured, create a becoming confidence in the hearts of our people. "Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts." Let successive blessings beget successive expectations, until in your churches and in your homes, you realise the benefit of many prayers mingled with the incense of Christ's own gracious sanction, "Pray ye the lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

### Education for the Ministry. — "Young Men's Scheme."

EVER as we turn our thoughts to the present state of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, the first question which is sure to present itself is, what can be done to secure the sufficiency of ministers to supply our many vacant congregations? We confess we have often felt a degree of reluctance to hazard an opinion upon the subject; and the many plans which have successively suggested themselves to our mind have, each of them, been so beset with difficulties, that we have hitherto refrained from proposing or supporting publicly any definite, comprehensive scheme. It is true, many separate efforts have been made, and a variety of measures adopted, and the hope is entertained that, by their combined and simultaneous operation, some amendment of the present state of matters may be effected. But these have been unavoidably defective and will be attended necessarily with very partial success. The Parent Church has to supply a great number of vacancies occurring annually in Scotland; has to provide for new congregations, which we rejoice to hear of being formed so numerous, and prospering so rapidly in our native land; has so many stations to be occupied and so many openings to be attended to, in connection with the Foreign and Jewish Mission Schemes; and is looked to and called to for ministers by every Colony under British rule. Therefore, it is plain, we can never expect Her to be in a position to know, or to meet fully the demands of this particular field. Even although we could, by any possibility, command that share of attention, which we are doing our utmost to approximate, and should we ever occupy that position which would enable us to look confidently to Scotland for a regular and ample reinforcement of ministers and missionaries, still we are prepared, after mature deliberation, to maintain, that this would not be satisfactory. Our experience confirms what, arguing from the nature of things, we may be prepared to realize—that, even in these favourable circumstances there would, in many cases, be a mutual disadvantage and a mutual disappointment on the part of the people expecting a minister, on the part of the minister sent to

them, and on the part of the Colonial Committee who give the minister his commission. We shall not break up this state, which it embraces. We believe most Kirkmen have their powers of observation and reflection sufficiently developed, and sufficiently acute to do so for themselves. We content ourselves, for the present, with asserting (and we do so without the slightest disparagement of the services rendered by a body of men, so highly distinguished for their ability and piety), that the Colonial Committee, with all the zeal, care, and caution which they do or can possibly exercise, are not so intimately acquainted with the wants of the country, and with the position and character of the people, that they can, even in a majority of instances, make a successful selection of applicants; nor will all the representations we may choose to make afford a sufficient remedy. We would blush to utter one syllable, that would have the least tendency to shake the confidence so justly and universally reposed in the Colonial Committee, and, we believe, a very general opinion will bear us out in stating that they have, of late years, been fully more successful than circumstances could warrant us to expect.

We agree in thinking, with many, that natives of these Colonies are, for many reasons, the best adapted to fill our pulpits and minister to our congregations; and the result of our observation is, that there are young men sufficient in number to supply our wants as a Church, and endowed with a natural capacity and talent which, if properly developed, cultivated, and directed, would enable them to fill the office of the ministry with credit and honour, and we believe they are not, on an average, inferior to the youth of any other country in the essential qualifications of morality and piety. The grand questions to be discussed are these two;

I. What is a suitable education for a minister in this Country?

II. How is a suitable education to be obtained?

With reference to the first of these questions, we decidedly aver, that a good education is at least as necessary here for the faithful discharge of ministerial duty as it is any where else. It is a great mistake to suppose that, because these Colonies are in comparatively an infant condition, a limited or inferior education will suffice. A transition state in countries, as in individuals, is of all states the most critical and the most difficult to manage. And we unhesitatingly assert that classical attainments and philosophical acquirements, an extensive knowledge of human nature, an intimate acquaintance with systematic Divinity, correct thought, studious habits, and skilful tact, are as indispensable to the minister of a congregation in Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island, as to any parochial clergyman in all broad Scotland.

And it is not to be forgotten that the vigorous intellect, singular precocity, and characteristic shrewdness of the Novascotian and the Islander must be allowed their due weight, in estimating the proper equipment of the Scholar and the Divine. The more we consider the state of the country and the character of the people, the more do we become confirmed in the opinion, that a full curriculum of study, in the faculties of art and theology, such as is prescribed at the Scottish Universities, is, if it can be obtained, the best that our Church should be satisfied with.

But how can this be obtained? The question resolves itself chiefly into a question of means—of pounds, shillings, and pence; and it is precisely because it does so, that we have hitherto been reserved in the expression of our opinion, and that we have felt, at times, an inclination to advocate a provincial, and because a provincial, necessarily a very limited and contracted Institution—for, certainly, better that than nothing. To establish and maintain an Institution of our own is out of the question. We are strongly in favor of Co-operation with the other Presbyterian bodies, on the subject of Education, as on other matters. It is desirable and will have its advantages. But there are difficulties in the way, and, while these are being contended with, we may be doing much for the accomplishment of the grand end we have in view. And, supposing these difficulties to be overcome, we fear we could look upon the utmost result that could be attained, for many years to come, as only preparatory. But take the most favourable view, and suppose an efficient united Institution to be in operation, what would be the cost? and what, the sacrifice? We should have to maintain at least three professorial chairs, the expense of which would be over and above our share of the maintenance required for the classical and philosophical departments. Each of these chairs would cost £300 annually, as we could not expect a duly qualified professor to devote the necessary time and labour for less, at least including all expenses; and all the income that could be realized by the exaction of fees would be a trifle in the balance. We would therefore require to raise every year, at the very smallest calculation, the sum of £900. A third of that would bring a student through one of the Scottish Universities in the most comfortable manner, even supposing him to have no bursary, and to earn nothing by private teaching. But, give him his share of a bursary, and of the income which students in the city of Glasgow are accustomed to receive for tuition, and one sixth of the sum would be sufficient. So that the sum we would require to raise annually would, in these last mentioned circumstances, fully educate six students at home. As for the sacrifice that would be made, that is best estimated by considering the advantages which the student would be deprived by his