

being planted generally throughout the country; and if they fulfil the expectations entertained of them, they will leave little to be complained of on this score.

We shall notice only one other consideration which may have had some effect in discouraging our youth from devoting themselves to the ministry. It is the disadvantage under which the ministry has hitherto very generally been exercised in this Province, owing to the peculiar circumstances of the country. We refer especially to two things—first the very mixed and miscellaneous population, in most parts, to be found, without those happy cementing alliances and associations by which the people of any particular locality in a long settled country are held together, and, in many cases also, without such a degree of unanimity respecting ecclesiastical arrangements, as is essential for the successful and comfortable administration of the affairs of a church, to whatever denomination it may belong;—and secondly to the circumstance that in consequence of the population being thin, and widely scattered, and most of the people at first struggling to effect a settlement for themselves, and consequently unable to contribute largely for the support of the gospel, it has been necessary, for most of our ministers, to undertake more congregations, or stations, than one, so that each obtains but a partial supply of the ordinances of religion—some of them can have comparatively little pastoral superintendence—the intercourse between them and their minister is necessarily limited and distant—while his bodily toil is greatly augmented, often to the extent of occasioning such fatigue and exhaustion, particularly on the Sabbath, that unless his constitution be peculiarly robust, he cannot but feel the labours of the pulpit oppressive, and must frequently have to bewail the want of that liveliness and energy which, in other circumstances, he knows, he would have been able and delighted to put forth in the service of the Redeemer. But, for all this a remedy is fast being found, in the changing circumstances of the country. Vast improvement has already taken place. Our first ministers have borne the burden and heat of the day, and others coming after them will, in happier circumstances, enjoy the fruit of their labours.

Upon the whole, then, we are inclined to look hopefully on the case. Much however requires to be done. The energies of the church must be strained to the utmost. A resolute, determined effort must be made, and from all we know of the church we are confident it will not be made in vain—in fact it will meet with cordial co-operation—an effort to augment the salaries of the ministers. All diligence must be given, by the use of every divinely appointed means, for securing a supply of ministers as well as for other purposes, to cultivate a spirit of ardent, glowing piety in the church; and ministers, elders and others, we are persuaded, will cheerfully lay themselves out in the way of exerting the vast influence they possess, for directing the attention of pious and promising youths to the work of the ministry. Surely, at least, parents might with great propriety be urged to give such youths a superior education. Should it ultimately be found that they decline the ministerial office, or should they unhappily so turn out, that it is not desirable that such as they should be encouraged to enter on the sacred office, still education could never be lost. With reference even to secular life, mental cultivation and acquirement will be more and more in request as the rough work of clearing the forest is got over, and as the country advances in civilization. But were numbers, of those connected with our church, educated from their early childhood, there is great reason to hope that under the Divine blessing, on the endeavors of a pious parentage, not a few would be found both disposed and qualified for serving God in the gospel of his Son.

[We hoped to conclude the Lecture in this No., but circumstances have rendered it necessary to reserve part till next publication.]