

has the first claim. By a judicious exercise of liberality in this direction, always exercised on the principle of calling forth increased contributions from the churches, a great deal may be done, at little cost, to keep the missionaries we have, and render them more effective for their work.

Again and again it has been proposed that we should have a few Itinerant Missionaries for the temporary supply of vacant churches, and the exploration of new territory. Such an agency is still urgently needed, had we the means and the men.

There is ample scope for the further extension of the work, in all the provinces of the new Dominion of Canada. If we can assure ourselves that aid will be given *as long as it is absolutely needed*, be that twelve months or twelve years, there are places on every hand where we can do good, and lay a good foundation for permanent influence. Of course, churches already planted have the first claim; then we can take up new ground.

But, the *men*—where shall we get the men? The supply from our own College will be but scanty for a time. The occasional return of an exile, the “locating” of an agent, the call to the pastorate of a brother trained in active Christian service among the churches, and voluntary emigration from abroad, may give us partial assistance. But it is well worthy of our serious consideration, whether, for “the present distress,” we should not pursue the plan long followed by our Australian brethren, and already adopted in the maritime provinces, of *procuring ministers from Britain*.

It seems to us that *promptitude* of action is of very great consequence, in our present position. Unless we can soon fill up vacancies, we shall altogether lose many places, where we now have a certain foothold. Unless we go forward, we shall go back.

It need hardly be said that, if such a course be taken, it will need to be taken with every precaution against disappointment. All will depend on our getting the right sort of men. We have no use for such as are unfit for work at home. Indeed, it is often said among us, that we need *better* ministers here than in the mother country! We cannot invite men to waiting thousands of English settlers, to large churches and ample salaries. Nor shall we ask them to come, as if to the heathen, with any superior or patronizing airs. But for men thoroughly devoted to their Master, with “a passion for saving souls,” of respectable preaching abilities, willing to work, and possessing a faculty of adaptation to a new country—ready to learn as well as to teach,—we can find room and work, and can offer them at least as good a livelihood as many “a workman that needeth not to be ashamed” is now receiving in the minor pastorates of England, Scotland or Ireland.

For our own part, we are more prepared now than we have been for some years past, to urge young men in our churches to come forward for the ministry. There is a very manifest work of “consolidation” going forward, in the self-supporting and in the missionary churches. We have suffered some rude