

Candidates for the Ministry

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States met at Eastoga, on the 24th of May. Dr. Horrick Johnson, the retiring moderator presided from Matthew 6th chap. 23rd verse. In referring to the decreasing number of candidates for the ministry he uttered the following pungent sentences which we think are worthy of due reflection on the part of every lover of our own Zion.

"Listen for a prayer in the sanctuary that takes hold on God in behalf of young men for the ministry, and pleads for the brightest jewels in any household casket. Is not such praying almost a forgotten sound in the bosom of the Church? Go search for mothers like Claudius Buchanan's mother, or sisters like Henry Martyn's sister. Find the bended knees that tell of special consecrations of infant children to the ministry; and the bended hearts that cry with tears, beseeching God to stop a gifted son on his way to high earthly honours and turn him to this unspeakable honour of preaching Christ crucified; and not that he may shine in some metropolitan pulpit, but that he may shine in God's sight anywhere—anywhere if only he may be permitted to preach.

Here I verily believe is the chief cause of the famine that is upon us, God has taken us at our word. Practically we have said, "This matter will regulate itself." Very well I will let them see whether it will regulate itself. And the Holy Spirit who has been given of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ, the presidency of this whole business, and whose exclusive office is to separate a Saul and a Barnabas and to call a son of thunder and a son of consolation, to the ministry; the Holy Spirit has more and more let our young men alone about this matter, and our Colleges have gone from year to year unblest as compared with the refreshings of old. And down has dropped our list of candidates, and we are faced to-day with a ministerial famine. The Holy Ghost has not forgotten the converted heathen and the converted negro; for they have not forgotten Him. He is going to care for their dying millions. He is raising up a ministry for them. A ministry called and set apart by Himself indeed, yet given through the prayers and tears and consecrations and sacrifices of their lowly hearts.

These ringing words are very applicable to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Like our sister church we are facing a

famine in the ministry and we are really pleading with the Lord of the harvest believing that he will thrust forth laborers into the harvest. Are parents consecrating their sons to this work, and ministers seeking for hopeful young men to enter the ministry of God's dear son?

And who that listens to the story now told us by our own missionary from the blood stained isle of Erromanga and his associates in the New Hebrides, to our beloved laborers in Trinidad and Dr McKay in Formosa but must see that God is not forgetting the converted heathen in these lands. Why? Because they are not forgetting Him. Oh, let us beware lest these converted heathen rise up in the judgement and condemn us.

OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

I am thinking a great deal about my son's education. He shall believe in the letter of the Old and New Testaments; and I shall nurture in him, from his infancy, a firm faith in all that I have lost, or feel uncertain about. . . . When the confusion of ideas and half truths is the greatest it is exactly at such a time that principles, which have been early implanted and carefully watched over so as to gain all the strength of prejudice, confer extraordinary power both over the world within and that without. He who begins his course thus armed fights with a weapon which is wanting to those around him. His heart shall be raised to God, as soon as he is capable of a sentiment; and his childish feelings shall be expressed in prayers and hymns; all the religious practices that have fallen into disuse in our age shall be a necessity and a law to him. . . . I wish, I strive with all my heart that he may grow up with the most absolute faith in religion.—Niebuhr.

The *Congregationalist* says:—"At the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Jesuitism in this country at the church of the Immaculate Conception in Boston recently, Bishop O'Reilly said: 'No one outside of the church of Jesus Christ can be saved, and it is needless to prove that this church is the only church of Jesus. One might as well have tried to be saved outside of the ark in the days of Noah.' After this there followed a banquet, and on the bill of fare were five different kinds of alcoholic drinks."

Belgium appears at present to be the most drunken country in the world. There is, it is said, one drink shop to every twelve inhabitants.