

ing in their orders. Considerable as the circulation of the *Record* is, we are certain it might be largely increased, were there in each congregation or locality, a person who would take an interest in the matter, and use a little activity in calling the attention of the members and adherents of the Church to this Publication. Every endeavour will still be used to make the *Record* interesting and useful to members of the Church, by giving as full intelligence as possible in regard to the progress of the Church, the proceedings of Presbyteries, &c., and also by communicating from time to time particulars in regard to the spread of the Gospel, and the success of Missionary efforts in other lands. In order to accomplish properly one of the chief ends for which such a Periodical has been established, it is necessary that we should receive early notice of everything of interest connected with our branch of the Church. We therefore respectfully and earnestly request Presbytery Clerks to send early notice of Presbytery proceedings, Calls, Inductions, the organization of Congregations, &c. We should also feel obliged to our Missionaries for occasional communications in regard to their fields of labour, and the progress making in the newer sections of our wide field.

We would, at the same time, invite occasional contributions from the ministers of our Church, as well as other individuals. This would give variety, and add interest to the *Record*.

The following are the terms of the *Record* :—
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Subscribers are earnestly requested to make payment of arrears now due.

THE SUPPLY OF CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

The season has now arrived for the re-opening of our Theological Institute. We trust that in the good providence of God, our Professors and Students will be enabled to re-assemble in the enjoyment of health and strength, and enter on the work of the session with vigour and energy. We earnestly hope too, that we may find a large number of promising young men coming up as entrants. We need many labourers for our wide and still increasing field. In several Presbyteries, especially in the West, there have been organized large and promising congregations, where we had no station previously; and these might indeed be multiplied, had we only missionaries to go up and possess the land. It is evident that, in a great measure, we must look to the pious youth of our own land for a supply. We are thankful for the help we have received from our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic, and we hope still to

receive, from the same quarter, accessions to our ranks. But it is perfectly evident that, to obtain any thing like an adequate supply, we must depend, under God, upon ourselves.

In common with other churches, on both sides of the Atlantic, we have had hitherto to deplore the small number of candidates for the work of the ministry. It would be easy to assign for this not a few reasons, arising from the peculiar circumstances of a new country, and an infant church, like our own. But, undoubtedly, the real cause of it is the low state of religion amongst us, and the great influence which secular and material things are allowed, at the present day, to exert upon the mind. There have been times in the history of the Church when Christian parents had no higher views in regard to their sons than to see them serving God and their fellow creatures in the ministry of the Gospel. But, alas! the prevailing consideration now is, how they shall most easily and rapidly acquire property and accumulate wealth. No doubt the low and unworthy standard of ministerial support may have had a large share in deterring young men from entering on a course of study with a view to the work of the ministry. But still, the main cause has, unquestionably, been a want of warm, earnest, devoted piety, pervading the characters of the people, and leading them to consider how they could, as individuals, most effectually promote the glory of the Redeemer, and the interests of his church. Hence it is evident that prayer to Him, with whom is the residue of the Spirit, and who is to be recognized as the Lord of the harvest, must be regarded as the great remedy to be applied in the existing state of things. Undoubtedly we must use means; Presbyteries must take up the matter; we must look out for pious and promising young men; we must converse with Christian parents, and urge on them the importance of directing the attention of their sons to the duty and the privilege of consecrating themselves to the service of the Lord. But after all prayer is the grand means to be employed, if we would see the waste places of Zion occupied by devoted labourers. The following extracts from an appeal on this subject by the Rev. John A. James, are so impressive and forcible, that we feel it to be our duty to set them before our readers, earnestly urging them to ponder the sentiments so well and so eloquently expressed—

"The whole matter of the ministry seems by common consent to be all but excluded from our prayers. True, our brethren pray at our prayer-meetings for their own ministers, and sometimes not only with earnestness, but with adulation. But how strangely they forget the ministry at large! Or if they pray for those who are already engaged in the work, how rarely they pray for a greater supply of labourers! How small a space of our united supplication is devoted to our Colleges, either to the students or the Professors! If ever there was a time when the people of God should lie down upon their faces, imploring with all the importunity, boldness, and perseverance of faith, for a larger supply of ministers, each full of the Holy Ghost, as was Barnabas and Paul, it is the period that is now passing over us. And yet the Lord's people are silent; or, if not silent, satisfy themselves with a few formal, lukewarm petitions, destitute alike of faith and fervour.

"I will, for a moment, advert to the kind of ministers we must pray for. This may be known from the work they have to do—to gather in the harvest of souls to Christ and to heaven. We want *harvest men*, for harvest work; men that can and will do this; men that thoroughly understand the great work of saving souls, and who will give themselves to the work. It would be a poor recommendation of a labourer for the harvest field that he was a good tradesman, or that he was a good scholar, or well read in history, if, at the same time, he did not know how to reap. His work is specific, it is to gather in the harvest, and his qualification must be appropriate. So it must be with the ministers of the gospel.

"They are described as *labourers*, not as *loiterers*; and as labourers in this work of gathering in the harvest. A man may be very busy, very diligent, really very hard-working, but if he is not busy, diligent, and hard-working in reaping and gathering in the harvest, he is not the kind of a man we should pray for. The work of the Christian ministry is as specific as the work of the reapers in the corn-field; and if he is not fit for *this* work, what business has he to be there?

"For such labourers the Church must lift up; general, loud, importunate, and persevering cry and just for these two reasons—the *scarcity* of the harvest, and the *paucity* of the labourers. If we saw a vast breadth of wheat spreading out before us, and only here and there a solitary labourer, though, perhaps, there were scores of loiterers and idlers sitting under the hedge, or strolling about with their sickle under their arm, we should involuntarily exclaim, 'The harvest will perish for want of labourers to collect it.' Such, friends, such is the scene presented by the spiritual harvest.

"In conclusion, I return to the subjects of prayer, and most earnestly call upon all who feel interested in the welfare of our own denomination in particular—in the prosperity of the universal Church, or in the conversion of the world to Christ: upon all who own subjection to the Redeemer's commands or sympathize with him in the desires of his immaculate and loving heart: upon all who see the connexion of an adequate and efficient ministry with the support and advancement of Christ's kingdom in our world,—to consider from henceforth more deeply, solemnly, and practically than before the necessity and importance of believing, importunate, and persevering prayer for the Lord to send more labourers into the harvest. It is with small hope of much effect, as regards either ministers or their flocks in general, that I send forth this paper. Alas! alas! we are all too busy to pray. We can find time and inclination for anything rather than this. And yet, is not prayer the very lock of our strength, the *secret of our success*? Let us begin a new era in the history of religious activities, which, without being attended with any decay of zeal and liberality, shall be characterized by a spirit of deep devotion and earnest supplication. Let the past be characterized as it may by coldness and neglect, neither the present or the future ought or need to be, on that or any other account, similarly distinguished. Let the end of averseness to prayer be now come, and a wrestling spirit begin its mighty power and prevalence with God."

BUXTON MISSION.

We have to express our earnest hope that Congregations will, without delay, make and forward their annual Collections for the Buxton Mission and Synod Fund. We would urge on those who have not yet made the collection, the importance of this object, and the duty of contributing liberally to a mission so interesting and successful as