

Lord with its substance, and with the first fruits of its increase. But such is our miserable condition that, whatever be the zeal and energy of our ministers—whatever sacrifices of comfort they may be willing to make—whatever journeys to undertake—whatever weariness and painfulness to endure, it is not in the nature of things possible, owing to the smallness of their numbers, that they should sustain the existing congregations, and at the same time make those aggressions on the kingdom of darkness in the wilderness, which the exigency of the case urgently demands. And here is the most painful, and in some respects, the most humiliating reflection of the whole, that though provided, to a great extent at the expense of the church at home, with the means of training young men amongst ourselves, we must after all be mainly dependent on Scotland for our supply. It is universally admitted that these things ought not so to be. However thankful it becomes us to be for the preachers we receive, and however disposed to appreciate the merits of those who can be induced to come hither, still every one allows that no church can ever be in a satisfactory condition that is not raising within itself an agency sufficient to carry forward the work of the ministry. Certainly duly educated preachers reared in Canada must, in various ways, have the advantage over those from a country in many respects so dissimilar to this, that men, especially if a little advanced in life, cannot but feel themselves here, for a time, labouring under the disadvantage of foreigners and strangers.

What method, then, is to be adopted for obtaining what all acknowledge to be so desirable—an increased supply of students and preachers? It seems reasonable to set out with considering what have probably been the hindrances, and inquiring whether anything can be done for the removal of these. For there is philosophy in the adage *amota causa tollitur effectus*. And here we may, at once, perceive and admit that much is to be attributed to what the best amongst us will be most ready to acknowledge really exists to a deplorable extent, namely, the want of a lofty, ardent spirituality and devotedness in the church. Did the flame of piety burn more brightly amongst us, more would be induced to look not at their own things but at the things of others, above all at the things of Christ, and to come forward in a self-sacrificing spirit and consecrate themselves to the cause of Him who though rich, yet for our sake became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich. On this point, all-important as it is, it would be improper to dwell; but we cannot say less than that there are many considerations, altogether distinct from procuring an additional supply of preachers, which should rouse and stimulate every minister, every elder, and every member of the church to increased exertion and zeal in the use of all appropriate means, especially in pouring out fervent, persevering, and unceasing prayer to God that pure and undefiled religion may more and more abound in our congregations, in our families, and our hearts. Then, while one result would probably be, that a greater number of holy and devoted youths would offer themselves for the service of God, in the Gospel of His Son, our own souls would prosper and be in health, others seeing our good works would glorify our Father in heaven; Jesus would see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; and there would be glory to God in the highest.

I scarcely know whether I ought to advert to another consideration which may have contributed to keep so low our supply of candidates for the ministry. It is a fact, however, that what I have in view has been referred to frankly enough by some ministers themselves. To speak plainly, it is a degree of apathy and negligence, on the part of some of ourselves, in bringing affectionately, earnestly and perseveringly forward, both publicly and privately on all proper occasions, the specific duty of young men possessed of piety and of good abilities, and favourably situated for obtaining education to devote themselves to the ministry. Certainly great prudence is requisite for discharging aright the