

was considered suitable; and had they not ripe Theologians such as Dr. Mackay and Dr. Cook, who had gained the confidence of the Church for about a quarter of a century, they must have had a closed Hall. When the Free Church sent a Theological Professor to Halifax, they guaranteed £460 annually. Another method of obtaining Theological Professors, is to engage the services of a minister who has charge of a congregation. This would rob the congregation of their due share of service, and impose labor on their brethren already over-wrought, to supply their pulpit. What is worse still, this would be very unsatisfactory. This system is disapproved of by the Home Church, and an Act of General Assembly has been passed condemning it. Our brethren in the sister Presbyterian Church are falling from this plan, as unsatisfactory, and only to be resorted to in cases of dire necessity. And shall we go back while others advance? Whoever supposes that our people shall be satisfied with what others discard, greatly misunderstand them. And if ministers in quiet and circumscribed parishes at Home cannot undertake this double work, much less can they do so in Nova Scotia, where the ministry is certainly as laborious as in any part of the world. Indeed, it must be manifest to every thoughtful man, that just in proportion to his diligence and zeal in his active ministerial duties, is he unable to devote himself to that kind of close patient train of thought and study absolutely requisite to prepare him for Theological training.

It must moreover be considered that we require means not for the support of one, but three, four, or five Professors, in order to compete with the Halls at Home.

Now, it should be asked, what, in our circumstances, should lead us to press for a Hall? Has our past means of supply proved a failure? Or have we unusual reason to fear that the supply shall fail? Have the winds and the waves begun to battle against us? Has the sky become lowering, and are we in danger that the little Theology we have shall forsake us, unless we have some young lads in Halifax to receive what fortune may provide for them? Be not faithless, but believe, brethren, that the sky never appeared brighter to us, or our prospects better, unless, in our vanity, we burden ourselves with a nominal Hall, instead of resting satisfied with the sure old way. The Church at Home was never better prepared, and never more willing to come to our aid. Our vacancies were never more generally supplied. Our prospects of obtaining native and foreign aid, could we show need, were never more favorable. The usual method of sending young men to Scotland, has not proved a failure. This scheme will certainly prove more satisfactory to our people than anything we can provide in Halifax. And there is little fear of Nova Scotians, even in Scotland, discard-

ing love of country. At present we have as many native clergymen in our Synod, who had been under no obligations to return, as we have of native ministers who were under obligations to return; and I confidently believe we should have more, were it not that our Canadian Hall had been depreciated over much in the pages of our *Record*. Only one left us, who, it was believed, should have remained. But surely we are but ill-prepared to institute a Hall in Divinity, if our generosity cannot allow one to the Parent Church that has so generously given us all; and our honorable pride is very low, if we cannot rejoice to see one Nova Scotian compete successfully for a prominent position in the Fatherland, and in the Mother Church—a position which, I frankly own, I should desire above any on earth, had not love of country and of expatriated kinsmen wanting gospel ordinances prevailed.

We have never been in less need of a Hall; and our people were never in more need of a well trained ministry. We are in far less need than the Canadian Church, and much less prepared to establish or support one. We are, as it were, mid-way between Queen's College, Canada, and the Scottish Universities. It costs nearly as much going to either, and perhaps little more than it would cost, some years ago, to go from the remotest part of Scotland to Edinburgh. It will be more convenient for those in the Western parts of New Brunswick to go to Canada, at least in the course of a year or two, on the extension of the Railway, than to come to Halifax; and it is not likely that they will prove so unwise as to pay for the support of our Hall, and thereafter for the support of their students, while they need only do the latter in Canada or Scotland.

It should also be considered by ourselves, in our financial poverty, that should we raise some hundreds annually for the Theological Chairs, we still require a fund for bursaries, or place our students, in this respect also, in a more unfavorable position than those who may go to Canada or Scotland, where they have their chances of from thirty to sixty or more bursaries in each of four Universities, worth from £5 to £40, and upwards. How much better, then, for us to institute five or six bursaries of £25 each in Scotland or Canada; and should we determine to make the most of the Colonial Committee, to ask them to provide five or six more; and this would be far less expensive to both, and much more satisfactory. And surely there is no parent, and no young man of spirit, but would rather enjoy the many superior advantages of a Theological training at Home. Nor is it too much that a young man who has made respectable proficiency in Dalhousie College, should spend a few days crossing the ocean, at a time when travelling itself has become a profession. When young men desire to attain some eminence in any of the mechan-