

the disease is one half the cure. The cause is not to be sought in any lack of young men of promise within the bounds of the church, for even before the union of the churches nearly twice as many students attended the two Halls as are now preparing for the ministry both at home and abroad. Nor is the cause to be found in the difficulties with which many young men meet in obtaining an education. True, to many these difficulties are serious, requiring for their removal a closeness of application which in cases have resulted in a shattered constitution; and, as will be shown in a subsequent article, it is the church's duty to aid in the removal of these drawbacks; yet this is not the grand cause, for obstacles of just as serious a character have to be encountered by many of our young men who choose other professions. Nor does the evil lie even in the inadequate support of the ministry, although no doubt on this ground some young men of promise have been deterred from entering upon the work of the ministry; and, by giving to laborers already in the field a comfortable maintenance, the church would make the path of duty plain to some young men who may be honestly asking, Lord what wilt thou have me to do? The want of a hearty interest in her Theological Institution, which, strange to say, the church has manifested in late years and the results of which are becoming apparent, may have restrained some from devoting themselves to the work of the ministry, yet even this does not lie at the root of the evil deplored.

The main cause of the lack of students is the spirit of secularism which characterizes the age. The world is intensely alive. On all sides is heard the din of its machinery. Men rush hither and thither pursuing this calling and that, but almost always having in view the acquisition of wealth as the great end of life. With this spirit so rampant in our centres of population, its pulsations are felt even in the most retired hamlets of the land. Is it any wonder then that as they grow up our children should catch the spirit of the age? Is it matter of surprise that young men, who start with the intention of studying for the ministry,

should during their academic course turn aside to other callings more lucrative while less responsible?

Assuming then that to the worldly spirit of the age must be traced the evil deplored, what is the remedy? Anything done to elevate the tone of piety in the family and the church would exercise a happy influence, for with increased spirituality would come on the part of the young an increased desire to serve God in the gospel of his Son. After out pourings of the Holy Spirit there has always been a large increase in the number of students attending the Theological Halls connected with the revived churches. Much depends upon christian parents. They should be willing to consecrate their sons to the Lord, and if need be to make sacrifices to secure for them the necessary education. They should frequently speak to their children of the need of an increase of ministers of the gospel, of the grandeur of the work of the christian ministry, and of the claims which Christ has upon the young. And while it is not prudent for parents to say to any one of the family that he ought to devote himself to the work—for the selection of David to be king teaches that the Lord's anointed may not be he whom man would choose—yet, in conversation and in the course of instruction, delicate hints might be given on this matter, and earnest prayer should be offered that God would sweetly constrain some one of the family to say, Here I am send me. Sabbath School teachers too should as occasion offers speak to their pupils of the importance of the work of the christian ministry. Pastors themselves should from time to time in their pulpit ministrations appeal to young men to devote themselves to the work. The bow drawn at a venture might do execution; a word fitly spoken might decide some who are hesitating, and might turn the attention of others to a question which they have never seriously considered. Workmen in the Lord's vineyard—men who while pursuing some secular calling endeavor to serve Christ—should, when they notice any young man of promise, seek to lead his thoughts in this direction, and strive so far as prudent to influence