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#### Thoughts on allowing Candidates to shorten their Theological Course.

In the present urgent demands upon our Church for Ministerial labor, and the insufficiency of the supply of laborers, there is a strong inducement to shorten the term of study for our Students of Theology.—Many of the members of Synod at last meeting felt our circumstances so strongly as to urge strongly that some of our Students should be immediately licensed. our congregations are becoming impatient, and perhaps some of our young men themselves, may be anxious to be on the field. We are not prepared to say, that nothing should be yielded in the present emergency, yet the matter should be seriously considered in all its bearings, and the experience of other Churches on the subject may be of value to us. In a late No. of the Home and Foreign Record of the Presbyterian Church of the United States there is an excellent article on this point, which we publish nearly entire. It will be seen that the course in their seminaries is three years of Theology. This is independent of the college course of three or four years, while ours are admitted to study Theology after two years attendance on the Philosophical Department of the

Seminary, so that their course at both departments does not exceed that of Students at the American Seminaries, while during the course of Theology the latter attend terms of nine months each. It will thus be seen that the requirements there as to time are at least equal to ours, while their opportunities of improvement are much more favorable.

“The Board of Education, (deeming it their duty to call the attention of the Church to whatever seems to have an injurious effect upon the thorough preparation of candidates for the ministry), beg leave to present a few considerations *against the practice of allowing young men to enter into the full work of the ministry before they have completed their theological studies.*

1. The practice of allowing candidates to commence the full work of the ministry before completing their theological studies, is, in the first place, doing them personally an injury. The Bible has many allusions to the importance of knowledge on the part of those who are to minister in holy things. An undisciplined and unfurnished mind, or one imperfectly trained, will rarely be able to teach others to edification: The existing arrangements of the