

in nearly all denominations, the same deficiency exists, and has been the subject of anxious investigation by leading men. At the National Council in Boston, last summer, an elaborate paper was read on the subject, by Rev. Ray Palmer, D.D. At the Congregational College Conference in London, January, 1865, two papers were presented bearing on the same theme, by Dr. Vaughan and Dr. Morton Brown. We should be very glad if our space permitted us to insert these valuable documents at length; but having little hope of being able to do so, we will give some outline of their suggestions, which contain many things pertinent to our own case.

Dr. Palmer stated that the number of candidates had been relatively diminishing for twelve or fifteen years, while New England itself was not supplied, and the west and the south and the foreign field were clamorous for more labourers. In speaking of "present wants as regards the ministry," he first made a forcible plea for the *broadest and most thorough scholarship*. After referring to the fact that the older and wealthier churches are not in danger of being left unsupplied, he argued with great cogency that men of especial force are required for the weaker churches; men who add to natural energy the most intense religious faith and earnestness, "who will be willing to enter and to *stay in the most trying and difficult fields*;" and men who at the same time are thorough Congregationalists at heart. In dealing with the question, "what ought now to be done?" he makes some valuable suggestions as to the improvement and ample endowment of theological seminaries and putting their advantages within the reach of all suitable candidates; at the same time urging that "young men of good ordinary education, good sense, or even superior natural abilities, who, owing to something peculiar in their circumstances, *cannot* go through the regular course of study, and yet, with a more limited preparation, might be exceedingly useful in preaching the Gospel,"—should have such shorter training as they are able to receive. For this, we have already made provision. Then follow some thoughts of great value on the need of awakening in the churches a new enthusiasm for the Christian ministry, leading to pastoral appeals for recruits, and the consecration by parents of their choicest sons, and of educating young men in a self-devoting and world-renouncing spirit. A decided statement is made of the duty of the churches to support their ministers liberally, as having a most important bearing on the supply of candidates. It is further argued that the churches, and especially the youth of them, should be trained up in a heartier love of our simple worship and polity. And lastly, the duty of prayer, earnest and believing prayer, to the Lord of the harvest, is urged as of paramount importance. "When fathers and mothers plead, and a faithful ministry plead; when the hearts of all Christ's servants are set on the consecration of the brightest jewels of their households unto God; we need not doubt that divine power will indeed work wonders, and that the ranks of the ministry will find a multitude prepared to enter them. It is not enough that we know this and say it; in good earnest we must ACT AS IF OUR INMOST HEARTS BELIEVED IT."

Dr. Brown, writing "On the Duty of Pastors and Churches to encourage suitable young men to enter our ministry," first adverts to the "painfully limited" number of students, not to be wholly accounted for by the tempting prospects of young men at home and abroad, and enquires whether God has not a controversy with us, because there is *so little prayer* for an able and godly ministry. He then asks, whether there is any growing doubt as to the Divine Institution of the ministry, arising from the influence of Plymouth