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PRAYER FOR THE COLLEGE.

The request that the churches observe the second Sabbath in October, as a day of special prayer on behalf of the Congregational College of British North America, will, we are sure, find a warm and hearty response. The blessedness and necessity of prayer for that important object have been felt in former years, and now the call comes once more to repair to the throne of grace. It strikes us as peculiarly appropriate thus to invoke Divine aid, in proceeding to a work so closely connected with God's glory. A session in a theological course of study opened by prayer and consecrated by the united supplications of thousands in Israel, is full of promise. We see a beautiful harmony in the throbbing of so many hearts with one desire; we become conscious of a strong bond of affection between the churches and the College. This link of prayer unites the seminary to the throne of God, and leaves it on the care of Him who giveth pastors and teachers. As we have, on former occasions, pointed out the good results of these times of prayer, on the management and general prosperity of our loved school of the prophets, we shall, on this occasion, endeavour to show the influence of prayer in securing the blessed objects for which the institution exists.

God's work cannot be done without God's help; this truth is worthy of being kept before the mind in all labour for Christ. The work of the ministry is so solemn and responsible, that a due preparation for its holy activities may well be sought for those who have given themselves to it. To begin the work with God is right, both for the persons dedicating themselves to it, and for those helping them on. It is becoming to pause at the threshold without daring to rush in heedlessly where an angel might fear to tread. Our Directors need wisdom to encourage or keep back candidates for admission. Our loved Professors stand in need of the same grace, and a double portion of the Spirit in all their arduous and responsible work. Our young brethren, the Students, require a large amount of faith and strength of purpose, united with humility and meekness. Can these be had without prayer? Holy duties may appear so awful, and we may feel ourselves so worthless, that there is a shrinking from the post to which we are called; what then but grace is sufficient for us? And where is that to be obtained but at the throne of grace? Who can go forth to hard and self-denying toil unless strengthened by food from the Master's table?

We obtain glimpses from Scripture of the blessed influence of prayer in preparing the servants of God for the work given them to do. Calvary was preceded by Gethsemane. Our blessed Saviour appears to have prepared his disciples on one occasion, to go forth as heralds of the Kingdom, by a