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"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—Ps. 137: 5.

A PASTORAL ADDRESS TO OUR CONGREGATIONS, ON THE LACK OF MINISTERS AND STUDENTS IN DIVINITY TO SUPPLY OUR VACANCIES.

BRETHREN,—At the late meeting of Synod in Pictou, the following formed part of the Resolution adopted in connection with the Report of the Home Mission Board:

"In consideration of the great want of ministers and students in Divinity to supply our many vacancies, the Synod resolves,

1st. That Kirk Sessions appoint a special day to be set apart for prayer to "the Lord of the Harvest," as well as for special appeal to the people.

2ndly. That Kirk Sessions be enjoined to bring specially before the minds of young men in the churches under their care, who may manifest such spiritual and intellectual gifts as seem to fit them for the work of the ministry, the duty of devoting themselves to that work.

3rdly. That the Moderator be requested to prepare, for the benefit of our congregations, a Pastoral Address on this all-important subject."

All-important, brethren, must the subject be acknowledged. It is vital to our existence. An interest in it is presumed. No theme can occupy a higher place in the earnest prayers and meditations of a Christian people than the condition among them of

the Church and cause of that Redeemer whom they profess to love. Is Christ's Kingdom extending in their land? They rejoice, and are stimulated to increased effort for its yet further extension. Is it stationary or decaying (and these words may, in this connection, be termed synonymous)? The mournful fact calls instantly and loudly for "humiliation, self-examination and prayer."

What, then, at this moment, is the aspect presented in these Maritime Provinces by the Church of our fathers? Reluctantly it must be owned—nay, it cannot be concealed that its condition is cheerless and discouraging almost to the last degree. To "speak smooth things and prophesy deceits" will in no way help us, would be not less foolish than iniquitous. The gravity of our situation was manifest from the sad fidelity of the description contained in the last H. M. report. It has increased since that report was adopted. Then our Synod numbered 32 ministers; now, by the recent withdrawal from the field of one (Rev. A. Pollok) who was a "pillar," it numbers only 31, exactly its strength five years ago; then there were 8, now 9 vacant charges, and among these are included three of our most important congregations. To supply