

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.
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THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

I.

"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few."

In placing such abundant work at the feet of our church God has honored her in a manner the most marked. Even a cursory review of her history for the past twenty years shows that wide doors both at home and abroad have been opened before her, and pressing invitations have been given to enter. In the home field new congregations have rapidly multiplied, and mission stations have arisen in many cases in the most unexpected quarters, while from abroad on every wind has been wafted the cry of benighted tribes, Come over and help us. God has also honoured our church in imparting a good measure of the mind to work. The liberality of the people has been very commendable as evinced by the annual exhibit of the statistical tables. A gradual increase has been made in the support of the gospel in settled charges, the Home Mission funds especially of late have been abundant, while very rarely has the state of the Foreign Mission funds necessitated a special appeal. Never yet has the church been compelled on the ground of an empty exchequer to decline the services of any laborer offering either for the Home or Foreign field. For these open doors and for this spirit of liberality, the church should feel profoundly thankful to Him who opens and no man shuts, and who makes a people willing.

Such is the bright side of the picture: look now at the dark. At last Synod it

was stated in one of the Reports that twenty-six congregations were without pastors; that the Home Mission Board was often perplexed to know which of many calls for catechists and probationers had the strongest claims upon the few men at its disposal; that were all our students whether studying at home or abroad employed to co-operate with probationers already in the field the demand would be very inadequately met; and that to provide for a very pressing necessity invitations had been extended to students in other Presbyterian Churches to spend their Summer vacation in our home field. Scarcity of laborers then appears to be at present the great want of the church. The harvest is great but the laborers are few.

To obtain a large increase in the number of her ministers is the work to which the church is just now specially called. And as this increase cannot be expected except to a very limited extent by accessions from sister churches, it must arise from within— young men must be induced to come forward and the church must undertake to train them for service. For, let the source of supply dwindle from year to year and the result must be an ever increasing number of vacant congregations and unoccupied mission stations. Is it then too much to say that the work adverted to is *the* work to which the church should at present address herself with all earnestness?

To what cause is this scarcity of laborers owing, is a question which should be seriously pondered by every friend of the church, for a knowledge of the cause of