

wards the endowment of a seminary amongst us, is most likely to be obtained, when we can go to the General Assembly, and tell our venerable Fathers and Brethren, that God has so far honored the ministry of the word sent forth by them into these regions, that some who have through it been united into the Saviour, are desirous of serving him in the same ministry? Let us but show to the General Assembly that we have even a few Christian youths of good parts, who are bound in spirit to serve God in the ministry of the gospel in these provinces; and we need not fear that our purpose and efforts to give them the most thorough training competent for us to give, will be frowned on by that Venerable Court. They shall, we trust, have no ground to surmise, that we wish to run counter to what is confessedly the tendency of all churches in the present age—the elevating the standard of scholarship among students for the ministry. And while for obvious reasons they may be disinclined to admit our ministers educated in Canada to an entire equality with those trained in their own Divinity Halls, in so far as eligibility to a parish in Scotland goes, we on our part, may without grudging consent to this, in the full confidence that when we have in Canada as good institutions for the education of ministers as those in Scotland, and have withal an over-supply of probationers—then our licentiates shall be duly respected and welcomed to the charge of Scottish parishes.

We rejoice to think that a few youths are already avowedly directing their studies towards preparation for the ministry, encouraged by the favorable reception which the proposal for a seminary obtained in the Synod. And it should be known throughout the church, that several of these are now studying in Hamilton under the accomplished Master of the District School there.

We know not whether the Presbytery of Hamilton, who must feel that a special superintendence of these youths devolves upon them, will apply for any farther instructions, to the next Synod; but in whatever way the subject comes before that assembly, we trust that they will promptly and cordially resolve to promote their education by all the means which the great Head of the Church enables them to employ. It is certainly a favorable indication that one so well versed in literature and science as Dr. Rae undoubtedly is, should be ready, as we believe he is, to lay himself out to the full extent that his other avocations will permit, for assisting and directing the studies of our young men. And we believe, that the earnest and unanimous representation of the Synod would easily obtain

from the Church at home, an able and experienced minister for the theological and pastoral training of our students, and the means, too, for his support.*

An arrangement like this would, we trust, not supersede, but introduce some more extensive and permanent institution. From the condition, both of the Church and of the province, all our institutions must have their "day of small things;" but through the blessing of God on prudent counsels and faithful exertions, we may assure ourselves that they shall yet have their day—their long day, we trust, of great things. If it could be so that the Synod should resolve not to train any of the members of our church for the ministry, until they obtain a chartered college, and some goodly pile of buildings with suitable grounds in its occupation, then we, at least, would bid adieu to the hopes, both of training our Canadian youths for the ministry, and of having the Presbyterian Church rooted in the community. Let us diligently employ the means which through the divine blessing on our exertions, we may command for educating our young men, and we may be assured that with the increasing demand for instruction, and the growth of the Church, suitable institutions will be obtained.

It should be kept in mind, that the minute subdivision of labor which now prevails in teaching the arts and sciences in our Scottish universities, was not coeval with the foundation of these institutions. The time was, when a Regent or Professor carried his students through the whole curriculum of study; and that was by no means a time of superficial acquirements. A similar plan would be most suitable to the circumstances of our Church in these provinces. We can expect only a few students at first; and our resources would not admit of supporting many teachers. Nor should we greatly fear that our students would not make any considerable advancement without the formal organization of a college. It is to be kept in mind that the actual acquirements of students are in the ratio rather of the impulses that move them to study, than of their opportunities for the prosecution of it. Let us but find young men moved by the Spirit of God to desire to take part with us in the ministry of the glorious gospel, and we may be assured that they will cultivate the best gifts for the exercise of that ministry.

Every age that has been distinguished for a re-

* We believe that some of the members of our Church, are longing for the actual commencement of the Seminary, that their offerings in the Saviour's cause may flow in this direction. We have heard of an offer by one gentleman of £25 per annum for ten years to the Seminary, when it shall be commenced. Happily this gentleman's zeal and liberality do not all linger on the resolves of the Synod in this matter.