

CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

VOL. IX.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1862.

No. 4.

GOOD MINISTERS.

The true ministry exists for the church, and possesses an influence for good the welfare of men. Success in the work of God greatly depends on the character of the agency employed. The pulpit is an arena of power to a good minister of Jesus Christ, but that "holy ground" is debased when occupied by a weak, frivolous, worldly, unprofitable class of men. This places before him who consider the question, the urgent necessity of a ministry called by God, and properly prepared for the work. It is a fundamental point, an error here eats as doth a canker. The whole operations of a denomination take complexion from the gifts and graces to be found, blessing and beautifying its solemn assemblies. Without cherishing any feeling except gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for the ministry with which our churches have been blessed, we yet feel a growing need of arousing all whom our influence can reach to fervent prayer on behalf of the Congregational College of British North America. Do the churches want good ministers? Then they ought to pray for them. The second Sabbath of October for several years has been consecrated among us as a day of special prayer for the college, again the request is made for this year. Many blessings are thus secured in the working of the Institute, while we can easily perceive the good effect of keeping the day in the manner requested, on the general views entertained by the people of the work of the ministry.

God raises up instruments for carrying out his gracious purposes. A true ministry is his creation. The right man is sent to the right place. The mantle of Elijah does not go with him to heaven, neither does it fall on the round to decay, but rests on the shoulders of Elisha who is to carry on God's work. The hand of the Lord is with such as are qualified by his Spirit. All this shows to the eye of faith, the lawfulness of prayer for good ministers; for men who shall win battles over error, bring souls to the cross of Christ, and build up God's people in the faith. Can we expect true progress without the gifts bestowed by Jesus? These blessings come through the channel of prayer.

This holy ministry must be exercised in the spirit of love. A good minister has a loving heart. Nothing else could prevail against the chilling looks, and frequent apathy shown to the message the servant brings. The workman hammers with the hammer of the word for many days, yet the rocky heart remains unbroken. Wearied with many a Sabbath's work the aching heart cries—who hath believed our report? Heedless of the familiar sound sinners are at ease