

the church, and my confidence is that a great future is in store for us, that by a continuance of the same kind spirit and hearty co-operation the prospects are that ere long the congregation shall be second to none on the Synod roll. I have, therefore, no reason personally to complain, although I feel that I owe nothing to any countenance the Church has ever given me in my humble efforts to serve her. This much of a personal nature you will pardon me for speaking; but I felt that it was necessary to forestall those ill-natured remarks that are sure to be made by those who cannot gainsay the truths I have advanced.

It may be also objected that those who are deterred from entering the ministry of Jesus Christ for such reasons, as I have stated, must be fainthearted, and withheld by worldly considerations, so that it is no loss to the Church to be without their services. The answer to this is that men are impelled by a network of motives, some higher and some lower, which cannot be separated from each other, but are all in their place legitimate. Thank God, there are some men of heroic and devoted natures who are attracted towards the ministry in this land, in spite of adverse circumstances, to whom the thought is invincible that after all, what position is so ennobling as the pulpit, from which a man has a right, unchallenged, to address his fellow sinners, commanding, rebuking, and exhorting them, and shaping their eternal destiny. But as the young are insensibly moulded by the opinions that are found floating, like disease germs in the atmosphere, every unreasonable and surmountable obstacle to the encouragement of the ministry that exists, must tell against the prospects of numbers becoming candidates for that office. So that the way to increase the chances of the Church securing a large number of students for the ministry is to remove every hindrance to the comfort and incitement of those who are already labouring in the Church. This will react favourably—ministers will be able conscientiously to recommend the young among their flocks to devote themselves to this work, and will give their own sons thereto.

You may be wondering within yourselves, but what have we as a congregation to do with much that is said? I answer that these are questions—intimately affecting every congregation, and that may any day need to be thought upon by you. It is from the people—from the families of our congregations—that the