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Miscellaneous Articles.

ON PROCURING STUDENTS OF DIVINITY.

To the Editor of the Canadian United Presbyterian Magazine.

SIR,—Impressed as I am with the great importance of procuring a larger supply of native ministers for our church, I cannot but take a deep interest in the movement now made to raise a fund for aiding and encouraging Students of Divinity; and it delights me to hear that the scheme is meeting with acceptance and support in our congregations. Nothing can be farther from my object, at present, than to abate in the least the interest taken in that measure, which I sincerely hope will be vigorously and wisely prosecuted, and will, under God's blessing, subserve the object contemplated. At the same time, I think other means, and means of another kind, should be diligently used along with the above. I feel disposed to place great dependance on means of a strictly moral nature—truth and duty assiduously and closely pressed on the understanding and the conscience. And I hope to be excused for saying, in the friendliest spirit, that I am humbly apprehensive the pulpit has been somewhat at fault in this matter. So far as my observation extends, there has been less both of preaching and public praying on the subject than there ought. I can scarcely imagine anything so well fitted to lead a reflective and pious young man to devote himself to the ministry, as hearing it habitually brought forward in the solemn services of the sanctuary, as an indispensable part of Christian duty, binding not on all, but clearly and indisputably on some, of the disciples of Jesus—on those who by reason of the endowments bestowed on them by the Head of the Church, and the favorable circumstances in which He has placed them, have a special aptitude for the office. I cannot but believe also that if this duty were constantly and earnestly urged on the hearers of the gospel, parents, and others having influence over such young men, would be induced to exert it in a way fitted to turn them in the direction of the ministry.

I have heard it alleged that this topic could but seldom be introduced into the pulpit, without dragging it in, in a forced and unnatural manner,