

THE  
CANADIAN PRESBYTER.

NOVEMBER, 1858.

OUR COLLEGE.

This institution is of the utmost importance to our welfare and progress as a Church. It is the only source from which we can now expect an adequate supply of well trained ministers to occupy our rapidly extending field of operations. Scotland tells us that, like the wise virgins, she has none to spare from her reserve of probationers. The fear *there*, is that the supply even from the three fountains of theological literature will not be enough for herself and her Colonial daughters. We cannot, therefore, depend upon any annual number of young men coming to us from the land of our Fathers. That, for special reasons and by peculiar providences one and another will from time to time be attracted to our shores, we may reasonably expect, and if they are good and true scholars and preachers they will always be welcomed with open arms. We are also given to understand, by the deputies from the sister Church in Ireland, who lately, with so much pleasure and profit to us, visited our land, that we need not look for any further supply of laborers from them. From various causes the number of their own Students has greatly fallen off since the year of the famine, and their own vacancies and mission fields will absorb all that they can provide. From England not much either is to be hoped for. Her College is not large, and the young men educated there are more likely, if unsuccessful in their own Church, to transfer their services to Scotland, than to turn their attention to the Colonies. We, however, look upon the congregations in England as a famous nursery for the arduous work of the Colonial field. Nine-tenths of these are small, poor and fluctuating. They contain little spiritual life, and are surrounded by influences of a nature so powerful as all but to prevent them from making any impression upon the native population. The result is, that they are in five cases out of six purely Scotch, and depend for their prosperity and existence upon an uncertain and capricious immigration. After a young man has laboured for some years and acquired valuable experience in such corners of the vineyard, he will find his ardent hopes nipped in