

Both branches of the Presbyterian Church in Ontario and Quebec are fully alive to the necessity of Home Theological training, and are giving it no secondary place among their schemes. One branch has recently raised a very large sum for the erection of a building for the accommodation of one of her Halls; while the other, wishing an increase of Theological students, has requested the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland to send to Canada a number of young men to complete their education and training for the ministry. Our own church has for many years endeavored to educate a native ministry; and the wisdom of her course is seen in the large proportion of the Synod roll which is filled by the names of her home trained sons, and in the success which very generally has attended their career. At the last Synod that met at St. John, the question was raised, when Theological education was under discussion. Shall we continue the Hall? when with singular unanimity, it was resolved not only to continue it but to bring its claims prominently before the Church. That the Synod acted wisely is evident from testimony incidentally furnished by the sister Church in these Lower Provinces. In a very admirable pastoral address on the lack of ministers and students, published in the September number of the *Monthly Record*, in deploring the scarcity of ministers and students, it is said: "The few from among our own young men who have heretofore devoted themselves to the work of the ministry, have, in the majority of instances, forsaken our shores. Had we the means, among yourselves, of educating young men for our work, with God's blessing we might hope for revival and extension." This sister church, whose high appreciation of a well trained ministry is evidenced in her *Young Men's Scheme*, complains that her young men who study abroad are apt to become restless when they return to the Provinces, and not unfrequently seek a sphere of labor elsewhere. She also feels that a great loss is sustained in not being able to avail herself of the catechetical labors of her students during Hall vacations.

The question of the permanence of our

Hall must for the present be regarded as settled. What new phases the subject of Ministerial Education may assume in the event of union we do not know; but, if the negotiating Churches unite on the proposed basis of union, all the Theological Halls will, in the outset at least, be retained; and as the prosperity of that part of the united Church which is situated in the Maritime Provinces would largely depend upon the presence of a Theological Institution within its bounds, the probability is that the merging of the Halifax into some other Hall would not for years at least even be mooted.

While earnestly hoping for union, and expecting therefrom good results to the united Church in the educational as well as in the other departments of her work, it is our duty, looking at the present necessity, to use every effort not only to secure a large attendance of students, but to increase in every possible manner the efficiency of our Hall. Should union come, a consummation devoutly to be wished—these efforts will not have been put forth in vain but will tell upon the good of the united body. What then is needed? Our Hall should have at least another chair. A staff of three Professors is the very least at which we should aim. Looking at the requirements of the times and at the equipment of Theological Institutions in general, no one can say that such an increase would incur the charge of extravagance. Justice to the young men whom we invite to our Institution—nay, justice to the cause of Christ itself, demands the step. That our Church is able to accomplish the work she herself has shown by what she has done for Ministerial Education in times past. Years ago, in raising an endowment fund, and in providing at the same time for the current expenses of her educational machinery, very commendable liberality was evinced. In late years the worldly substance of our people has increased with the general prosperity of the times. And no one can doubt what the issue would be if only the work referred to was undertaken in earnest.

On the very eve of union, however, some might deem it inadvisable to take