

sources and the number of the Students of our Theological Seminary, in a degree somewhat commensurate with the position and wants of the Church.

It appears that the entire number of Students is fifteen,* a number which, though far from being adequate, is by no means discouragingly small; and, had they all been in attendance, would have presented an aspect both respectable and hopeful. But more than half of the number were absent during the session which has just closed. For this, two reasons are assigned,—sickness, and the prosecution of other branches of study. The latter reason, is, on some accounts, a matter of congratulation rather than of regret, as it is of the highest importance that our students be respectable scholars, as well as able Theologians. But why so many should be kept away, or compelled to leave on account of ill health, is as the report says “a reasonable subject of enquiry.” The proportion is not less than one fourth of the whole number. The causes may be various; one however, I am persuaded, is the fact that some of the students are overtaken in endeavouring to accomplish too much in a given time. Having entered the Hall before they were very well qualified—some of them with the merest elements of classics, and alike ignorant of science and philosophy, they are necessitated to prosecute these branches and their theological studies at one and the same time; and besides this not a few, the greater part of the year discharge the onerous and exhausting duties of common school teacher. And I would add that during the session of the Hall, circumstances induce some of them to pay more attention to economy than either health, comfort or inclination would suggest. These causes, combined with the peculiarly unfavorable season of the year in which the Hall meets, will account for much of the sickness, and, of course, the absence of so many of the students last session, to say nothing of the fact that during the time the Hall was in session, cholera was prevailing in the city.

In view of these things I would respectfully suggest, that as recommended by the synod, efficient measures be immediately adopted for increasing the stipend of ministers. The present rate of salaries is utterly inadequate to the support of an efficient ministry and exerts anything but a favorable influence in inducing young men of piety and talent to engage in the work. Even as a laborer, a mechanic, or a common school teacher,—not to speak of the professions—any young man of energy and industry would secure for himself a far more comfortable competency than is now afforded in the ministry of our church. This, with the views which as a church we hold, and promulgate, is wrong and ought to be corrected, and indeed *must* be, if we would see any considerable number of young men of talent attending our Hall. To effect a material change in this respect must be the work of time. Meanwhile might not something be done in the way of assisting students to defray their expenses in attending the Hall, either by so far increasing our contributions to the Theological Fund, as to leave a surplus for this purpose—which indeed might very easily be done. The trifling sum of one quarter of a dollar from each member would be sufficient. Or, if that cannot be attained may not some congregations, or individuals, or both be found, at once able and willing to offer annual bursaries say of £10 each—for the purpose of encouraging students. And would not the Hall be more attractive and more profitable too, if large additions were annually made to its Library.

*One, however, only a hearer.