

and the CANADIAN METHODIST REVIEW established. But the whole matter is treated extra-conferential, and although much has been accomplished, yet the interest in the lectures and discussions is not so general as it should be. The Presbyterian Church is giving attention to practical questions outside of Synod business at the annual meetings, as do also the Baptists, Congregationalists and Episcopalians. Besides this, at their theological colleges they are having post-graduate sessions "for the study of new problems, critical, theological, social, which are continually presenting themselves to the minister in his active work, as well as for fuller and deeper understanding of the sacred Scriptures, and the prosecution of such other studies as will the more fully prepare and furnish the mind and heart for the great work of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ." In the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, similar work is done by "The Itinerants' Club," an institution first organized by Bishop Vincent to assist probationers for the ministry in prosecuting their studies, but since enlarged to help all who have a "true desire to gain knowledge and power." Its object is thus set forth: "This is a meeting chiefly for ministers. Its first aim is to hold up very high ideals of ministerial character and qualifications. It seeks to bring into helpful fellowship the members of a holy profession; to outline plans of study and work; to guide students of theology in the mastery of the books and subjects on which they are expected to pass a satisfactory examination; to exalt the sacred office, and to encourage a renewed consecration of every minister, present at the session, to the God of all grace and to the service of Christ and His Church."

The beneficial effect of such movements must be apparent to all, as also the comparative result to a ministry where such helps are neglected. In order to secure truly effective preaching and the best pastoral work, the mind and heart of the preacher should be kept fresh and vigorous by the inspiration of new truth, the stimulus from discussion of current thought, and the quickening and deepening of spiritual life by sympathetic fellowship with those having a common interest.

Shall we of the Methodist Church fall behind? Why should