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OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

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**THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.**

The effort of the Presbyterian Church in these Provinces to train a native ministry has been crowned with gratifying success. Parents have gladly devoted their sons to the work of the ministry; young men have pressed forward to the goal of hallowed ambition in the face of most serious difficulties; the Church has taken a good deal of interest in the young men; Professors have performed their work with exemplary faithfulness. The result is now open to the view of the world. Our Church need not be ashamed of her ministers "in the gate." Neither in scholarship, nor in popular talent, nor in devotedness to their sacred calling do they fall behind the ministry of other Churches. Young men trained among us are now ministering to large congregations in Ontario, in various parts of the United States, in New Zealand and Australia.—Some also are engaged in translating the Scriptures into languages in which the Gospel had never before been preached, and doing brave pioneer work in heathen lands. In view of these facts we should surely thank God and take courage.

We cannot be too grateful for the able and faithful men who from time to time come among us from our sister Churches. Most cordially do we welcome them and pray God to send us many more such true men, such skilful Gospel-workers. But we must unquestionably depend on our College and on our own young men for an adequate and a permanent supply.

At the present moment we have but six Theological Students in the Hall! Six

students—not half of whom will be ready for license this summer; and our Home Mission Board able and willing to employ double the number. It is true that there are five or six of our young men at other institutions—at Princetown, or in the New College, Edinburgh. Still it seems obvious that the supply has fallen far short of the demand. Let us look at this subject very solemnly, as it deserves, and indicate a few of the causes that have led to the present state of affairs.

There have been great and well-founded complaints of the inadequate support provided for our ministers, and thus young men have been disheartened and kept back. The impression is general, that to devote one's self to the ministry is to make sure of poverty and hardships. This, to some extent, accounts for the smallness of the number of our Theological students. If the people do not think it worth while to support ministers as they ought, is it any wonder that young men should shrink from what may appear to them a life-long martyrdom, struggling with penury and debt? It is quite possible to present the case of ill paid ministers too darkly. Only a very few are actual sufferers for the necessaries of life. The great majority of ministers lead a life of average happiness and comfort, and their burdens and crosses are not heavier than they are able, by God's grace, to bear.

But the earnest student, the devoted young man, need not be scared from the holy calling by visions of poverty. He may count on his "daily bread," and with