

THE CANADIAN

CHRISTIAN EXAMINER,

AND

PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE.

NUMBER 3.

MARCH, 1839.

VOLUME 3.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

SCHEME OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

To the Editor:—

SIR—On the subject of educating young men for the ministry in the Province, the Synod of Canada at last meeting resolved:—

That the spiritual and eternal interests of thousands of our countrymen in these Provinces demand that every means be used to educate pious youths for the ministry within the bounds of this Synod, inasmuch as the religious wants of the community are increasing in a ratio, with which no supply of preachers to be expected from Scotland can keep pace: while that supply has been actually almost entirely stopped, and inasmuch as the very existence and continuance of the ministry in this church, seem to depend on their so doing.

And farther—

The Moderator was instructed to communicate this resolution to the Moderator of the General Assembly, with a view to procure the approval of the contemplated measures by the parent church. The commission was instructed and authorised to take all necessary steps for obtaining subscriptions within the Provinces and elsewhere, towards the employment of Professors, and the establishment of Bursaries, for students. The Synod resolved to transmit that portion of the report which contains the draft of a scheme of theological education, to the several Presbyteries, that they may report their observations thereon at next session of Synod, enjoining them to give this important matter their best attention and consideration.

As the best means in my power of transmitting to the several Presbyters that portion of the report to the committee on Theological education which embraces the "*Plan for the education of candidates for the holy ministry,*" I send it for insertion in your journal.

And I avail myself of this opportunity of calling

the attention of my brethren in the ministry to this important subject. The spiritual destitution of our church has increased to a most alarming degree; and, alas, it is still increasing. I do not overstate the matter when I say there are *sixty* or *seventy* bodies of Presbyteries throughout the country, who require the labors of a minister, some of whom have long been earnestly seeking to obtain them, but in vain. The totally inadequate provision which the scattered settlements of this colony can offer, and the delay on the part of the government to render them any assistance, has nearly extinguished our hope of obtaining Licentiates from the parent church. I cannot but esteem this a very deplorable result, whether I look at the temporal or spiritual prospects of this my adopted country—and I fervently pray that light may arise in the darkness. But even should we succeed in obtaining from Government such a measure of support for the ministry as would revive the hope of an accession of laborers from the church of Scotland, or the Synod of Ulster, it would, nevertheless, be our manifest duty to provide the means of a Theological education for such young men within the colony as may desire to devote themselves to the service of the church. The Synod is now unanimous on this point,