

Hitherto we have been chiefly, though not altogether, indebted to the Home Church for ministerial agency. And deeply grateful we should be for the generous supply of men and money, so long and so largely sent us by our brethren in Britain. But it is not desirable, nay it is wrong, that we should henceforth be dependent on foreign aid, to any considerable extent, either for ministers or money. We must look among ourselves for both. And if they are not to be found in sufficient abundance to meet the exigencies of the case, the idea of any great extension of the Church is vain, and even her permanency becomes, at best, a question of painful dubiety. The nation that cannot find generals as well as soldiers and the "sinews of war" within her own territories, but must needs go a begging for both, cannot be an aggressive or powerful nation,—nay, she cannot, for any length of time, maintain a desirable position, or even a tolerable existence. It is somewhat similar as regards churches and the spiritual warfare which they are called on to wage. Duty and interest, aye, and self-preservation demand that the United Presbyterian Church of Canada henceforth draw more largely, and all but solely, on her own resources, both for ministerial supply and ministerial support.

But, sir, I am much more solicitous about ministerial *supply* than about ministerial *support*, limited as that support generally and confessedly is. Such is my confidence in the efficacy of Divine truth and Divine grace on the natively selfish hearts of men, and such is my reliance on the promise of the Saviour, that I have no fear for the sustenance of faithful gospel ministers. The Spirit of God opens an exhaustless and ever flowing fountain of benevolence in the believing heart, and some of the streams of that benevolence will infallibly flow towards him who devoutly and dilligently labors in the service of the God of Love and Mercy, who never sends any on a warfare at his own charges.

What the Church requires, and especially in view of the future, is an increase of pious, well furnished and devoted men to minister at her altars, and to preach in those localities which are, in a measure, destitute of gospel ordinances—men that are willing to spend and to be spent in Christ's cause. This increase, as well as our permanent supply, of ministers, must, if at all possible, be obtained among the pious and talented young men to be found in our congregations. Of such, I do trust, there is no lack. We want a great many more from this source, resembling in religious character and mental calibre those whom we have already obtained. That portion of our ministry which has been cultured in Canada would be a blessing and an honor to any Church. And the few young men who are at present prosecuting their studies, with a view to the ministry in our connection, give most encouraging promise, as far as my personal knowledge and information go, of becoming workmen that "need not be ashamed."

Something should be done that young men who give some evidence of having received the grace of God, and who possess ability to acquire and communicate knowledge, may have their serious attention called to the demand for ministers, and to their duty with regard to it. And I would entreat such young men prayerfully to ask whether their Saviour does not require their services—whether it be not their imperative duty to "the Captain of their salvation" to prepare themselves