

1869 is six or seven ; and for 1870 there is no appearance of any great increase. These will not do much more—if they do that—than keep the number of Ministers up to what it is. The same prospect is forced upon us when we look at the lists of vacancies and Probationers :—

In October last	there were	45	Vacancies	and	20	Probationers.
In January	“	37	“	“	16	“
In April	“	41	“	“	13	“
In July	“	46	“	“	13	“

Thus notwithstanding all the happy settlements of the past year, and the reception of several Ministers from other churches, there is still an increase in the number of vacancies, and no increase in the number of Probationers. *If all our Probationers were settled to-day, there would still be THIRTY-THREE vacancies for which there are no Ministers.*

While this state of things continues, it is in vain that we labor to increase the stipends of our Ministers, or by liberal grants foster weak congregations with a view to settlement. If we could pay every man \$600 with a manse, still for every congregation that would obtain a settlement, nearly three would be doomed to remain vacant. *The church has not the men.* Congregations cannot all be supplied, however much they may desire to hear candidates. It is useless to deceive Presbyteries or congregations. The only question which really will be decided is, which congregations shall be fortunate, and which shall be unfortunate, *for all cannot obtain Ministers.*

We write strongly in the hope that something may be done. There is reason to hope that after 1870 we shall see the happy result of what is being done to bring students through the literary course. But even then we shall not have such a supply as the church will require. Immediately, then, steps should be taken to secure suitable men. May not the present need justify a departure from the ordinary course of training? Are there not men in our eldership, and in our membership, endowed with gifts and graces, who, if asked, nay, pressed with christian earnestness, would undertake the work? Though such men may not have passed through a curriculum of literary study, they may be called of God, and sufficiently trained in other pursuits. We put these questions as suggestions. Let Presbyteries and Sessions do what they think for the best. Without men the Lord's work cannot be done. And let us pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers.

## Missionary Intelligence.

### OUR OWN MISSIONARIES.

RED RIVER—REV. J. BLACK.—Recent intelligence has been received from Mr. Black. He is earnestly calling for additional labourers. As will be seen elsewhere, there is the prospect of another missionary going at once to the Red River country. But, on the other hand, Mr. Matheson has received a call from Osnabruck, and there is the possibility of his return.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—APPOINTMENT OF A MINISTER.—The Foreign Mission Committee have invited the Rev. W. Aitken, formerly of Smith's Falls, to proceed to British Columbia, and we rejoice to announce that Mr. Aitken has seen it to be his duty favourably to respond to the invitation. All who know Mr. Aitken will, we are assured, receive this intelligence with satisfaction and with confidence in Mr. Aitken, as a most wor-