

fluent and useful. Other openings have increased in number and attractiveness, and are drawing off young men of talent, energy and piety, to such an extent that the Schools of the Prophets, the world over, are feeling the consequences.

For the cure of this evil, we know of no effective remedy, but earnest supplication to the Lord of the Harvest for His Spirit in double measure, to call forth disinterested and devoted young men for the work in increasing numbers, and to draw forth from a revived and free-hearted people, a more cheerful and an ampler support.

Having noticed the dispersion of our Students, it is but right to add that, to some extent, this has been the effect of our own variable and irresolute proceedings respecting the Hall for the last few years. The desire of travel, too, seems to pervade our whole population, and even ministers, as well as students, have been seized and carried off by the Emigration fever; but the disease has probably reached its crisis, and indications of reaction begin to appear. We have seen the worst. If we have faith and patience, we will soon see increased numbers and prosperity. But we must not idly wait to see what may turn up. If Union in this Province, or with Presbyterians of other Provinces, should come, let us be prepared to welcome it, and to shape our course with the course of events. If the finger of Providence should point to an amalgamation of the Divinity Halls in the Dominion, we should, and we trust will, be found ready to keep step with the march of events; but until such indications are clear, we would hold fast what we have, and strive to make it more prosperous.

VOICE FROM VICTORIA.

We adopt, as our own, the subjoined closing appeal to the Victoria Church, issued two years ago, on the same subject, designed to awaken the people to *provide*, and young men of piety to *use*, the means of educational training for the work of the ministry:—

"The scheme now proposed by the Church is, that during the ensuing five years subscriptions should be raised throughout its bounds for setting on foot and equipping such a Hall as that for whose desirableness and necessity I have sought to show cause. Some may suppose that a general scheme of this sort tends to diminish support to local objects. The history of the Free Church of Scotland, honourably referred to lately by leading men of distinction in both Houses of the British Parliament, as revealing what can be done by a people once in earnest in giving to God and His cause, demonstrates that a general scheme does not necessarily, and did not, in fact, there, interfere with local

objects. When the Free Church was formed, important home and foreign missions were on hand; and the interests of these, it was much feared, would suffer when, in addition, the people had thrown on them the building of new churches and manse, and the entire support of the Gospel ministry. What was the result? The churches and manse were built; the ministry was provided for in a great central fund, such as may by-and-by be had in Victoria; and missions, home and foreign, received an impetus and a stimulus the like of which had never previously been lent them in Great Britain. The truth is, the Christian conscience out here needs to be educated on giving to the support of religion. In His two dispensations, God has left room for giving. He has asked, and pronounced it blessed to respond. Is not this a fact: that many, who will consider and pause ere they put their names to a subscription for a religious object to the extent of two or three pounds, have often little hesitation in spending as much, perhaps more, on mere trifles? The consciences of whole multitudes are dead as to God's claims upon them. But the Almighty exacts what is not given. Judgment follows rightful demand when that demand is refused. That God in whose hand is our breath, whose is the health to work, the work to do, who controls the seasons and gives the rain, can dry up resources when men are close-fisted in respect of the support of our holy religion. The universe to its inmost depths answers to the will of God, as the nerves and muscles of our body answer to our will, and a selfish people have consequently never been long a happy people.

"But money is not all. Men are needed, men of parts and piety. In Israel of old every first-born son was the Lord's. One tribe out of twelve was called to minister at His altar, and in His services. The ministerial profession just now is perhaps not so honoured as it might be. So much the worse. It is also destitute of the possibilities of wealth in other lines of life. Nevertheless—1. It is God's service and work that a minister is engaged in; 2. There is another sphere of reward; and 3. Even in this Christ said, alluding to ministers first and chiefly: 'There is no man who will come after Me,' that is, to public service, 'who shall not receive an hundredfold in this present, and in the world to come life everlasting.'

"Lastly, the prayers of God's people are wanted in this business. 'The harvest truly is great [in this epoch of history], but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He may thrust forth labourers into His harvest'—that he may thrust them forth out of your midst, and out of this great and growing com-