

Contributed Articles.

STUDENTS FOR THE SACRED MINISTRY— WHENCE DO THEY COME?

II.

WE have seen that out of every one hundred students in our theological halls, about *ninety* come from country homes. And we have indicated two reasons to account for this, viz., (1) the existence of a feeble religious life in the Christian homes of the city, and (2) the currency of false ideals of the true end of life, whose influence is felt in far greater power by the youth of the city than by those in the country. Some other causes may be briefly hinted at, to complete the consideration of the subject.

(3.)—*The eager haste to be rich.*—Never before in the history of commercial enterprise has the greed of money been so marked as within recent years. Competition, which used to be represented by the moderate speed of the stage-coach, is now only to be compared with the rapidity of steam travel, and of the lightning. Business transactions of the greatest magnitude which used to take weeks if not months to mature, are now settled in as many hours. Almost all the products of the world are within call of the telegraph. The fever of speculation has risen to a white heat, and men trade in millions on products which are not in existence, nor will be for years ahead, if ever. But this fever is not partial; it is widespread. The man who is worth his thousands is under its spell, down to the common clerk, who cannot pay his tailor's bill, or that of his washerwoman. The old-fashioned road of patient and plodding industry has been abandoned as too slow and too long, and men want to become rich by a short cut. And this spirit is like an epidemic, it affects the whole community. It invades the church, and the family circle. It is uppermost in men's minds. Young men in every circle of life soon catch this worldly contagion. Few Christians or Chris-