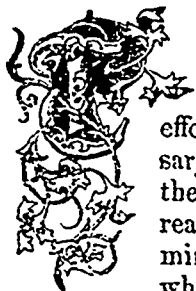


THE PRESBYTERIAN.

FEBRUARY, 1865.



THE present circumstances of our Church call loudly for an earnest and united effort in support of the Bursary Scheme. Every year the number of congregations ready for the settlement of a minister, as well as of stations where the services of a missionary are required, is increasing, while our means of supplying the vacancies are wholly inadequate. We have at this moment, besides missionary stations unprovided for, no less than nineteen vacant charges: Finch, Nelson and Waterdown, St. Paul's (Montreal), Brantford, St. John's (Hamilton), Paisley, Woodstock and Norwich, North Dorchester, South Gower, Nottawasaga, Lindsay, Peterborough, Dummer and Ontonabee, Chinguacousy, Georgina, Erin, Caledon and Mono, Dundee, C. E., and Chatham, C. E. And how many labourers yet unsettled have we to fill these? In all, only four or five of our own probationers, and six missionaries from the parent Church.

This is a state of things which it behoves all who have the good of immortal souls and the prosperity of our Zion, to look fairly in the face. If it continues, it is evident that whole congregations will be lost to us from year to year, and while the population of the province is being constantly increased, our Church must decline. New stations here and there may be occupied, but it is evident from the small number of unsettled ministers and probationers, that other stations cannot be so; while some of our oldest and most attached congregations must be more or less neglected, and seriously injured, if not broken up, and destroyed. It may be said that parents and friends ought to lay more sincerely to heart the duty of directing, by every lawful means, the minds of our pious youth to study for the sacred ministry, and there is no doubt too much truth in the statement. It is to be remembered, however,—and long

experience has shown it to be the case,—that the expenses of attending college, and maintaining themselves there for six sessions, is far beyond the unassisted means of most of our deserving young men. During the last session of Queen's College, \$1006—\$386 in scholarships and \$620 in bursaries,—were paid to those studying with a view to the holy ministry, and chiefly to those prosecuting their studies in the Theological Hall, while the whole sum received from the collection for the Bursary Scheme was \$355, leaving a deficit of \$651, which had to be made up from other sources, and an advance kindly granted by the Trustees of the College to meet the emergency. The consequence has been, that this session the funds of the Bursary Committee are wholly exhausted, and already it is feared that some of our best divinity students will be unable to defray their necessary expenses of board, &c., and continue their studies at College. This is a condition of things which ought to awaken the most anxious attention of every friend of our Church, and to call forth the special liberality of those upon whom God has bestowed a more than ordinary portion of this world's goods. The importance of the Bursary Scheme is well known to all connected with its management, and can scarcely be exaggerated. It is the complement of the supplementary Temporalities Scheme, and, we venture to say, is not less important to the Church. We have not only to provide for the proper support of our present ministers, but for their places being filled when they are gone, and for our spiritual wastes being reclaimed by thoroughly qualified labourers, whose sympathies are all with this country, who intimately know its wants, are aware of its difficulties, and are prepared to face them.

Every effort will be made by the Committee of Synod to put the Bursary Scheme on an efficient footing, but their exertions will be in vain unless our ministers and