

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE."

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For the Colonial Churchman.

THE WANTS OF THE CHURCH.

"I write unto you, young men."

1 John, 2, v. 3.

My dear young friends,

I have a subject of great importance to communicate to you. I wish to ask you, young men of this land, if there are any among you who feel a desire of devoting yourselves to the honourable and holy calling of ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ; who, during his incarnation, affectionately exhorted us, saying, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Missionaries are much needed in this province, but it is lamentable to consider that there are but few who seem willing to forego a little of this world's ease and pleasure for the more denying, but far happier employment of the labourer of the meek and lowly Jesus. Is it because this office affords but a scanty emolument, that you refuse to consecrate your time and talents to the service of your dear Redeemer? Or, is it because you deem his service too laborious? Was he, on his part, ashamed to ransom your guilty souls from the wrath of

Divine Omnipotence, by the voluntary surrender of an immaculate person, as an atoning sacrifice, to repair the awful breach made between man and God, by reason of Adam's transgression? Are these the grateful acknowledgments you return to your Saviour, in requital of his matchless love? Oh! take heed, the sentence denounced in Matthew x. 33. be pronounced against you, at the last day, before the whole assembly of men and angels: "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." What reason have you to withdraw, on account of poor pecuniary reward? Will He, who "feeds the ravens when they cry," and so luxuriously decks the lilies of the field, prove unmindful or inattentive to the wants of his true disciples? Has He not declared, "The labourer is worthy of his hire?" Are not ravens and lilies of comparative insignificance to creatures endowed with immortal life? Let not, I entreat you, such unsubstantial fears deter you from an employment which involves the greatest possible earthly happiness,—happiness which does not flow from outward circumstances; but, in a great measure, from consideration of being co-workers with Christ, in the grand design of bringing many sons and daughters to glory. The souls to whom, under Divine blessing, you prove instrumental will, as diamonds, glitter your crown, increasing your joy, and heightening your felicity.

Observe the destitute state of Nova Scotia, as regards spiritual instruction. How many children of Adam are there craving the bread of life, yet how generous hands are willing to impart it! The Christian world is actually perishing for lack of knowledge, because men prefer the things of time to those of God. Well, may we sorrowfully exclaim the words of our Saviour, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few." Does not the fact discredit on the Christian spirit of the Province of Nova Scotia? Will you seek and invite labourers from foreign lands whilst there are many here who are well qualified to prepare for this sacred office? Young men, in the bloom and vigor of life, and with ardour and enterprise, you are better fitted than strangers to this important work. Inured from infancy to the severities of your climate, you, consequently, possess advantages over your foreign brethren. I will allow that the disciple of Christ should lead a life of self-denial: he cannot indulge in

the gratifications of the ungodly.—John the Baptist, the "burning and shining light" was contented with the plain fare of "locusts and wild honey," and despised "soft raiment." If you prove "faithful unto death" you will receive "a crown of life." This distant hope of so triumphant a reward should stimulate you to vigorous and timely efforts. Bring to the task half the resolution with which you pursue any favourite object. Oh! if some, who are now prostituting their talents in the service of hell, should direct their fine endowments in the channel of piety and usefulness, how many splendid ornaments would daily accrue to the Church of God? And will Satan longer be allowed to hold such extensive sway unopposed? Shall hell reap such glorious trophies in spite of all the Son of God has done and endured for sin? Are there no young soldiers of Jesus disposed to gather round the battered and crumbling walls of our Zion, to sustain and defend her ramparts, and valiantly repel the incursions of her mighty foe? Young men, reply to these appeals. Lay your sincere desires at the feet of Christ. Fervently implore Divine guidance, and the sanctifying influences of His Holy Spirit. If you pursue this judicious course, the Almighty will dispose and prepare your hearts for his service, and make you "flames of fire" in his sanctuary.

But, I am aware some will excuse themselves on the ground that the previous preparatory studies necessary, are too difficult to be acquired at their present time of life. This difficulty is not so unmountable as they generally apprehend. Let them engage in the ministerial office through pure motives and Providence will guide them through all obstacles attending the pursuit of science. Application and perseverance, combined with the blessing of God, have and will perform what timorous minds would deem impossibilities. By way of encouragement, I would mention the example of some truly excellent men in this province, who commenced their collegiate course at an advanced period of life. Some are more distinguished as laborious and useful missionaries, and others are holding important offices in our literary institutions. Who needs despair after such encouraging examples. What will not a burning zeal for God and his glory overcome? The paths of literature will prove the more delightful, when travelled under the immediate glance and auspices of your Maker. A few years diligent study will place you in possession of attainments creditable to your high profession. Commence then in the strength of the Most High, and success will ultimately crown your heavenly-minded attempt.

Christian youths! He who has formed the human heart can mould it for his purposes. He can lighten up the quivering desire to a bright and radiant flame. If any of you, who read these lines, feel an inward wish of becoming devoted labourers in the vineyard of Christ, neglect not; I entreat you, by devout prayer and meditation to keep alive this holy inclination. Recollect that it is no less than God's Holy Spirit striving within you. Desires, such as these, cannot proceed from Satan. No, on the contrary, he will use his hellish artifice to depreciate, and deprecate the ministerial office by whispering to you the labour, poverty, and self-denial it involves. Harken not to his insinuations: he will exaggerate the claims of each. As "a liar from the beginning," stamp. No longer "halt between two opinions;" but emphatically exclaim, "I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only." You will be received with open arms.—Christians will gladly offer you the hand of fellowship; and our literary institutions will open their doors for your admittance, and cheerfully grant you all the advantages, pecuniary and

literary, from which even the poorest is not excluded. But above all, be "men of God;" and your success will be complete. Then, may you safely repose your care and concern in your heavenly Father's distant hope of so triumphant a reward should stimulate you to vigorous and timely efforts. Bring to the task half the resolution with which you pursue any favourite object. Oh! if some, who are now prostituting their talents in the service of hell, should direct their fine endowments in the channel of piety and usefulness, how many splendid ornaments would daily accrue to the Church of God? And will Satan longer be allowed to hold such extensive sway unopposed? Shall hell reap such glorious trophies in spite of all the Son of God has done and endured for sin? Are there no young soldiers of Jesus disposed to gather round the battered and crumbling walls of our Zion, to sustain and defend her ramparts, and valiantly repel the incursions of her mighty foe? Young men, reply to these appeals. Lay your sincere desires at the feet of Christ. Fervently implore Divine guidance, and the sanctifying influences of His Holy Spirit. If you pursue this judicious course, the Almighty will dispose and prepare your hearts for his service, and make you "flames of fire" in his sanctuary.

A FRIEND OF THE CHURCH.

For the Colonial Churchman.

MISSIONARY ANECDOTES.

We are assured in holy Writ, that all things, however adverse they may at first appear, shall work together for good, to those who love and serve God. The following minutes from the Reports made a few years since, by two missionaries in Australasia, (King and Shepherd); seem to confirm the truth of that blessed promise, I appropriate them to your service.

SIGNA.

"I find, by experience, that all the changes and distressing circumstances which have taken place amongst the Natives, from time to time, have been preparing the way for the gospel of Jesus Christ.—Many of the Natives confess, that their system of Religion is bad; that their hearts and lives are very wicked; and that their laws and customs are opposite to the welfare of their Country, but that they are at a loss to know, in their situation, how to do better. However, there are some in the Schools who are seeking the Lord in earnest; who are daily praying for His grace and mercy; and are endeavouring to instruct others. May the God of all Grace strengthen and confirm them in the knowledge of themselves as sinners, and of Jesus Christ as their only Saviour and Redeemer; and direct their feet into the way of peace!

We feel thankful that we are still preserved in health and peace. We have cause for rejoicing that the Lord is making bare His arm in the sight of the heathen. I believe we can say of individuals in the different Settlements, "Behold! they pray."—I trust that we shall have living witnesses from among the poor New Zealanders, that the Gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation to every one that believeth. The means of Grace are, in general, pretty well attended, and we are encouraged to visit the Natives around. The average number of Natives in our Settlement is about 30; they make advances in their learning; the major part of them can read and write, and some of them can cipher. I hope that we shall soon have Native Teachers among us: indeed, some of them have actually commenced praying with their Countrymen. The Natives of Rangihoua behave well: they have lately manifested the good effects of Missionaries residing among them.—On being requested, by a party with whom they are connected, to go with them to war against some Natives living near the River Thames, they replied, "No: we have heard what the Missionaries say against these things, and therefore we will not join