

then, with other things equal, prepared to enter upon any suitable sphere of labour in a manner honourable to God, the denomination and himself; and should his place be one obscure, he will raise it from its obscurity and always be fully furnished for a call to go up higher.

There may, however, be circumstances with some which seemingly prohibit the prosecution of this full course, and for such cases provision has been made. By consent of the Faculty, these may take the shorter or theological course of three years, with special scientific and other subjects in the University, this being made equally as free, and with the same privileges of vacation employment, as the former. We think that the adoption by students of this shorter term should be the exception and not the rule, and are confident that the brethren who have had much experience in the ministry will join us in urging candidates to pursue the full five years of preparation, despite the temptations they may have to hurry through.

There may be other circumstances which seem to indicate even a milder or less formal preparation than either of the above, as in the case of those coming to us from other bodies through conscientious convictions, who may possess but inferior literary acquirements, or men from England and our own churches here, who have had some experience and success in winning souls through lay mission efforts. On account of their age, family relationships, mental habits and former experience, they may desire to enter at once upon some neglected field to gather and garner for

Christ. That there is a sphere and work for such no one can deny, for God has honoured like labourers; and for these provision was made at the last annual meeting of the Missionary Society. Suitable men of this class who find spheres of labour will become the accredited missionaries of the Society, and receive assistance by missionary grants, and after three years of satisfactory probation and study under the supervision of the District Committee within whose bounds they labour, they shall be eligible for ordination and full ministerial standing. By refusing to recognize and assist those who thrust themselves upon and are foolishly received by the churches as pastors without proper trial and preparation, the Society discharges a necessary duty for the protection of our churches and the body, and we have no sympathy with the person or church desiring to make the admission of ministers by any other way than these honourable and open means that are provided.

When the churches realizing their claims for a well-educated ministry have provided and at a great expense support a college for this purpose, it is, to say the least, very unbecoming for any one to encourage any other course, or to suffer themselves to be encouraged to take any other course. If every aspirant for the office of the ministry is to be received at once with open arms because he is pious and can preach, let us cease making our claims upon the churches for the college, dismiss our professors, and receive no more students who, after a long and liberal course, are placed on an equality with these.