

terian Church in the United States. But why do the colleges thus cry for more men? Is it from any merely selfish consideration, such as the desire to rise superior to other colleges? Not at all. It is because the college authorities are simply re-echoing the urgent cry which perpetually issues from the thousands of fields of labor in which men are wanted. When we consider the great number of those fields, when we reflect upon the vast extent of the N. W. territories and the multitudes of people who are streaming into those territories, when we remember that the whole world is the field of missionary labor set before us by our master, and when we think upon the number of men prepared to enter on the work, we must exclaim, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few."

The question, then, How shall we secure more men for the work of the Christian ministry? is one not only of immense practical importance, but also extremely *urgent* at the present time.

The answer usually given to the question is this: let us have a *revival* of genuine religion throughout the bounds of the Church, and then we will have an increase of candidates for the ministry. With this answer we of course agree. Let the Word of God, which is the instrument of the sinner's conversion and spiritual up-building, be more faithfully and more earnestly preached by our ministers, and studied by all the members of our churches; let there be more fervent and persevering prayer to God on the part of ministers and people alike, for the outpouring of his Spirit in richer abundance; let there be more steady, earnest Christian work; in short, let all the means of grace be improved as they ought to be; thus let us be endued with power from on high so that many may be turned from darkness unto light, and from

the power of Satan unto God, and many of God's people greatly advanced in spiritual life, and the inevitable consequence will be a large accession to the Christian ministry.

But while this answer to the question is quite correct it is not sufficient. In order to secure the desired increase of candidates for the ministry, it is not enough merely to pray and work with the general object in view of securing a general revival of religion. There must be *more prayer and more work having the special object in view of securing more men for the ministry*. Here I am convinced the Church has been greatly to blame. While there have been many prayers offered and much energy expended with the general end in view of a blessed religious awakening and advancement, there has been too much neglect of prayer and energy with the *definite* end in view of securing that which is one of the most essential means whereby this revival may be attained, viz., a sufficient number of Christian workers.

In order then to secure more men for the ministry, we as ministers and people, must *pray* more earnestly and perseveringly *for this very object*. This is in accordance with our Saviour's command, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labourers into his harvest." We are apt to forget that not only is the office of the Christian ministry an institution of Christ's appointment but the true members of the Christian ministry are his gift to the Church. We neglect therefore too much the duty of seeking from Him in earnest prayer the needed Christian laborers. Of course the "laborers" needed in the Lord's harvest field embrace more than those who are called to the office of the ministry, but the Christian ministry is included in these, and it is further the special gift of Christ, the great King and Head of the Church