

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "MONTHLY RECORD."

Dear Sir,—I have often had my attention drawn to the inadequate supply of ministers in our British American Churches. This want has been, perhaps, felt more powerfully in our Church than in any other; and it has doubtless arisen, in a great measure, from the sad desertion of our pulpits in the dark days of '42-'3. Into the propriety or impropriety of said desertion of our Zion, by those who once stood by her altars and trimmed her fires, I have no intention to enter. I purpose briefly to notice the *fact* that there is a great want of young men coming forward and offering themselves for the ministry, and the best mode of securing an adequate supply of the proper character.

All branches of the Church of Christ, in Anglo-Saxon communities, are feeling this want of good men to minister in holy things. Even the Established Church of England, in which the highest prizes, in a pecuniary point of view, are held out to talented and ambitious young men, and into whose clerical ranks a larger proportion of persons will therefore enter, from mere worldly motives, has been compelled to admit a number of men into her ministry who have never passed through a University course. The peculiar Church organization of our Wesleyan brethren gives them an advantage over all other bodies, with, perhaps, one or two minor exceptions. They have always been able to keep themselves well supplied in quantity, even though, in many cases, it has been at the expense of quality. Perhaps they are not so far wrong in thus keeping their ministerial ranks well filled, and with their best men in the most important and honorable positions, as we, in our pride of learning, are apt to imagine. It is, no doubt, a pleasant thought, that while other churches have lowered their standard of theological and literary training in order to meet the wants of new and growing countries, our time-honored Zion has, even in the darkest hour of her history, "demanded the same scholarly attainments at the hands of her ministers as in her most prosperous days." This, we repeat, is, no doubt, a very pleasant thought, but I fear that the pleasure won't pay for the ground we have lost, by refusing to come down from the high position which has placed our clergy among the best educated body of men in the world.

There is room just now within the Synod's bounds, for some six or eight more ministers than we have, and the question is, where are they to be had? There is certainly no use in looking beyond our own Provinces for a permanent supply. 'Tis true, some good and noble men have come out from the mother church, and spent the vigour of their manhood's prime in making us what we are to-day.—All honor to the noble band who left country and kindred, and the endearments of home, to build the watchtowers of our Zion in these far off Western lands.—But it is a notorious fact, that, along with many excellent men, profound scholars, and earnest and able preachers, there have been those who did not adapt themselves to the peculiarities of Colonial society, and who, in failing to extend the boundaries of our church, have yielded to the longing desire so strong in many minds to end their days in the country of their birth. I presume we are all convinced from experience that we cannot, and must not, if we intend to prosper, depend on Scotland for our supply of ministers. We find no fault with the great majority of men whom we receive from her, and look upon some of them as being among the brightest ornaments of our church. But while doing so, we must not shut our eyes to the fact that such a source of supply will always be very uncertain, while the Trans-atlantic birth of so many of our clergy has always given to our church an exotic character, which has militated powerfully against her success among persons not strongly Scottish in their sympathies. From these and other sources arise the great necessity for a native ministry. To supply this want, we have been making vigorous efforts for the last ten or twelve years.—Young men of talent have been assisted