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THE SUPPLY OF MINISTERS.

It is well to look facts fairly in the face, so that we may seek wisely to act as circumstances may require, and may not murmur and blame others for things which either cannot be helped, or for which we are equally

responsible with others.

The inadequate supply of ministers is a matter calling for serious notice in all Evangelical churches. In the Canada Presbyterian Church quite as much as in any other, we cannot but feel that we have too few men for our work. This indeed is the chief cause of our slow progress. By this time we ought to be convinced of the vanity of the hope we once cherished, that the Home churches would send us men. They cannot find men for their own Missions. The increase of home work in Britain, and the success of her Foreign Missions affords cause of thankfulness, and the increase in the stipends of Ministers in Scotland is very encouraging; but we ought to remember that these two circumstances reduce most seriously our chances of obtaining good men from Scotland or Ireland. Besides this, Australia and New Zealand are felt to have a stronger claim on the Home churches, just because they are younger daughters, and are not as yet able to walk alone.

Now when we turn to Canada what do we find? A slight increase in the number of Ministers indeed; and a slight increase in our Mission work. But on the other hand we find not a few of our fathers, who have nobly borne the burden and heat of thirty or more years in the field, fast giving way, and their places will soon need to be filled. We find also some resignations of younger men, and some instances of men in the vigor of manhood going to the United States to labor. At the same time our supply of students is not increasing. In 1866 nine or ten young men were ready for license; in 1867, thirteen; in 1868, ten. The prospect for