

And just here it may be asked, Why, with the universal diffusion of education in our day, should there be any lack of such men for the churches and mission fields? Various answers are given to the question. Some, accustomed to determine all things upon what they call business principles, allege that the emoluments offered by voluntary or non-established churches are inadequate to attract first-class talent. Men of social elevation and brilliant gifts are drawn in other directions—to law, medicine, politics, and mercantile pursuits, and refuse to doom themselves to the embarrassing financial conditions and exacting toils and worries of the average minister.

Others, again, blame theological Seminaries for introducing weak men into the pulpit. It is said that they are lax in receiving students. The terms of admission, viewed from the standpoint of character and scholarship, are too easy, and the subsequent demands made for energetic and honest effort are not sufficiently severe. Students who, after fair trial, fall below the proper standard are not excluded; and, what is worse, monetary aid is sometimes given to inferior men who are simply ambitious for official dignity and an easy life. Possibly there are errors of this sort committed. But I must say, in passing, that Presbyterian students in Canada are not subsidized in the manner complained of. They are left to fight their own financial battles. We believe in the survival of the fittest. We provide a limited number of competitive scholarships awarded solely upon the ground of meritorious attainments, and we would gladly have Fellowships established to enable men of superior piety and talent to prolong special studies at home or abroad. Whether more than this should be done is well worthy of consideration in view of the acknowledged falling off in the number of candidates for the ministry. Eminent men have gone further, and have forcibly urged that it is as much the duty of the Church to meet the entire expense of educating her ministry as for the State to provide for the training of a standing army or the maintenance of civil officers. In this connection it should be remembered that Presbyterian churches generally furnish theological