

began the work which has now assumed such gigantic proportions, and almost overtakes the energies and resources of the Church.

REFLEX INFLUENCE UPON THE STUDENTS.

That such labors have a most blessed reflex influence upon the students themselves, we cannot doubt. There are lessons learned in Home Mission work, during summer vacations, that are of inestimable value through life. The house to house visitation, which compels almost constant exercise in the open air, and the somewhat rough but hospitable entertainment that the backwoods country yet affords, are not without their physical and social advantages to young men, whether beginning or ending their academic course. Better far than the tonics and prescriptions of the druggist or physician, is the pure air of the boundless prairies, or even the rocky boulders and corduroy road of our northern regions, for the sedentary recluse, who, for six winter months, has been poring over Greek and Hebrew roots, studying the "Institutes of Calvin," and the dialectics of the Schoolmen!

But these are but the least advantages to the student of work in the mission field.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN NATURE

gained by coming into contact with men placed in widely different circumstances—many of them beginning life anew—with all the hardships and anxieties incident to such a condition—furnishes a training school for the real work of life, which cannot be found in the best equipped university. There is an impression abroad, that many of our younger ministers know but little of the practical side of ministerial life; that where they fail of success, is not so much for lack of scholarship, nor yet of aptness to teach, as for want of that tact and prudence, and common sense, which are so useful—nay, essential, in the management of congregations, and so conducive to lengthened and happy pastorates. It may be so in the old world—it ought not to be so in Canada. Young men who pass from school to college, and from college to the divinity hall; who are the sons in many cases of rich or well-to-do families—without the necessity, to use a common expression, of

"WORKING THEIR WAY THROUGH COLLEGE,"

either by teaching or other employments, are, we submit, but ill-