

African says, the struggle may be looked upon as having been fairly commenced, and the sword will now have to decide that to effect which, by negotiation, too great eagerness appears to have existed.

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CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1862.

THE WANT OF MINISTERS.

Dr. Baird, than whom no one is better able to speak understandingly upon the subject, reports that at present, in the United States, there is a deficiency of not less than thirty-four thousand evangelical ministers. Not merely that that number could find employment, but that there are already that number of pulpits in which there is no Pastor to officiate. Are Christians aware of this fact, and what the disparity in the number of Churches and of Ministers is constantly increasing? It is increasing in these Provinces and over this Continent to which such multitudes are thronging from the old world. Our own denomination is as deficient as perhaps any other. In Maine, with 295 Baptist Churches, there are only 201 ordained ministers, so that even if every such minister was Pastor of a Church, which is not the case, nearly one-third of them would be without adequate pastoral care.

In the whole United States, with 10,441 Baptist Churches, there are but 6094 ordained ministers, including all superannuated ones, officers of Colleges, Secretaries of Societies, Missionaries, Agents, &c., showing more than one-third of the Churches without Pastors.

In Canada, with 125 Baptist Churches, there are only 67 ordained ministers. In New Brunswick, with 67 Churches, there are only 46 ordained ministers. In Nova Scotia with 100 Churches there are only 67 ordained ministers, leaving one half of the Churches in Canada, one-fourth in New Brunswick, and one-third in Nova Scotia destitute of Pastoral care. With such a present destitution, what must it soon be at the rapid increase of members with which notwithstanding all our unfaithfulness it has pleased the Lord to bless our Churches? In 1850 there were baptized in the United States 47,719 converts on profession of their faith. The last year there were in the same way baptized in New Brunswick, 476; and in Nova Scotia, 845. Considering the average number of members to a Church over these fields, which is 72, this increase of one year, 49,040 members, would require about 700 to be ordained to meet their needs, 18 of which ordinations should have been in these Provinces.

Neglecting to look out the gifts in our Churches and to encourage young men to go forth to preach the gospel where shall we look for a ministry to our Churches? Will they come from Canada where the destitution is twice as great as here? Will they come from the States where not only the destitution is as great as ours, but where ministerial privileges and ministerial emoluments are both far greater than here? No we can look to neither of these sources; but on the other hand we have reason to fear a draft from both these quarters on these Provinces. This has been the case hitherto, and our liability to loss in this respect never was so great as now. What then is to be done? We can easily imagine how ready many will be to respond, and as they felt assured scripturally: "Pray to the Master of the Harvest that he will send forth laborers into the vineyard." Did such ones ever hear of the Priest who was called forth to bless the barren fields of his flock? Manifesting no lack of grace, but a great deal more shrewdness and sense than many of his flock, he remarked, when approaching some where no labor nor pains had been bestowed, but the whole appearance indicated shiftlessness and indolence on the part of the owner. "A blessing will do no good here, these want manure." He who has taught us to pray for laborers in his vineyard, has taught us what kind of laborers he would have; and how he would have them treated and employed. He would have men able to teach others,—able by study to show themselves approved unto God as work-

men that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth; He would have men wholly given to the work. He would have them held in esteem for their work's sake; He would have the Churches encourage their Pastors; He would have them comfortably supported. "The laborer is worthy of his hire." "Who goeth a warfare at his own charges? Who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care of oxen? or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written."

Let the Churches or those who would offer acceptably the prayer for an increase to the ministry encourage and aid the young men in our Churches who are mentally qualified for the work, and endeavor to persuade them of their duty and to give themselves to it. There has prevailed a singular disposition to leave young men to their own impressions. Encouragement has been given to any one however defective in natural gifts and qualifications who has expressed a wish to preach, and those who have not put themselves forward have not been considered the proper subjects for encouragement with reference to the ministry. This has been the consequence of absurdly erroneous ideas of what a Divine call to the ministry is, and how a young man shall have this call communicated. It is taken for granted that those who are forward to go, and who talk of their strong convictions and impressions, especially if favored with a flow of words to address an audience, are the ones called, and that a woe is on them if they preach not the gospel. Now then take the principle and consider it as thus exhibited. It includes two parts. 1. A divine call to preach is made on the individual's own mind. 2. The individual's impressions are the index by which the Churches are to be guided. To show how little reliance is due to such a course we simply ask when is this divine guidance to cease? Is it to be continued to him as the servant of the Great Master whose work he is to do—the under-shepherd feeding Christ's sheep till his work is done, and his commission cancelled by the Head of the Church? or is he to loose it as soon as the consent of some Church and Council has been given to his license or his ordination? If this latter is the case, that the Lord merely, as it were, puts him on the road and leaves him there; we ask, where do you find anything in Scripture justifying such an opinion? If you say the Lord continues the call and guidance in the same channel where he commenced it; then, we ask, why do Churches contend against God? why do they dare interpose their judgment between God's servant and the work the Lord has given him to do? Does any ask, what Church does so? we ask earnestly what Church does not? Where is the Church that allows any man, old or young, with or without natural gifts, to come to them and say, "I have a call of God to be your minister; my soul is stirred in your behalf; I pity perishing souls among you; my sleeping and my waking thoughts are that I must preach here; you must obey me as having the rule over you in the Lord; you must esteem me very highly in love; you must support me according to the scriptural instruction on this point?" Now, will your view of a Divine call work in this case, or must you abandon it and adopt another? We believe the essential defect in this view of a call is, that an *Impression of an individual*, the uncertainty and fickleness of which is usually admitted, is exalted above the *wisdom, intelligence and good sense of the Church of Christ*, which has been divinely constituted the pillar and ground of the truth, and invested with the authority for government and discipline and rightly exercises its prerogative in the view of all Churches of an independent or congregational form of government in saying who shall or who shall not be their Pastor, and entitled to their confidence and support as such.—We only say, let the Church exercise the same authority and employ the same prudence, judgment, and piety in regard to her young men, whose impressions every one must know are less to be depended upon, which it exercises towards men whose zeal and fidelity in the Christian ministry have stood the test of years. We think we could safely advise a Church if the impressions of either are to be admitted, by all means to allow the impressions of matured experience and piety; and if the Church shall take it upon itself to judge the latter, by no means scruple to judge what

the Head of the Church might indicate in regard to the young of the flock. As the Church does not scruple to consider concerning the physical, mental, social and moral qualifications of an old Minister when concluding what the Lord may appoint or where and to what the Lord may call him, whence arises the jealousy of interference with the impression of an inexperienced young man, whether his impressions should be for or against preaching? We have every reason to believe that much of the objection against a suitable and comfortable support of the ministry will be obviated when good sense and piety are allowed to walk together and not fall out by the way, in the matter of calling young men forward to the important and responsible work of the ministry.

We believe further that the objections against the Education of the Ministry in Literary Institutions will be undermined and will disappear as the Church conducts scripturally in seeking out, maintaining, and suitably encouraging the gifts with which the Lord may bless it in the personal endowments of its converts young and old, leading and advising every one to his appropriate sphere and work.

We believe further that when the Church in the exercise of its matured and sanctified judgment has exercised its own proper rights in the calling of a suitable ministry the latter will be found to be men who will command personal respect and maintain the respectability of that office which God has commanded should not be despised.

The guard of the respectability of the office and of its duties lies to-day just where it did when the inspired Apostle charged his young brother to qualify himself for these by diligent culture and study, to show himself a workman that need not to be ashamed, emphatically adding, "Let no man despise thy youth," that is, let no man be left with any just pretext for despising thy youth. Your respectability and personal and official influence rests where every other man's does.—"Let no man despise you."

ACADIA COLLEGE.—An effort is to be put forth immediately to collect in each County of Nova-Scotia the Pound subscriptions pledged in past years to the College, to cover its current expenses for the year nearly closed. Some Minister in each County it is thought can be found to collect these sums. The Parishes of Wolfville and Cornwallis are coming forward as volunteers to see what report they can give of both their hearty good will and works towards the endowment scheme, previous to the Association. This is good. Their position naturally makes them to be regarded as the leaders, and if they step strongly, others will feel confidence and encouragement to rally. We understand an excellent beginning has been made. It cannot be possible that the urgency of this subject can be known by Ministers and Churches and either feel indifferent towards it. Will the Churches do without a Ministry? Where will they look for another generation of Ministers unless they show that they appreciate the office and will afford every facility to have it respectably filled, and its duties creditably discharged. We will ask in vain for a Ministry if we despise and neglect the means which Scripture and the providence of God direct as the natural and necessary ones for securing it.

Missionary Meetings have been held in the several places of worship of our Churches in the City and Portland this week, to facilitate Bro. Burpe's agency. The meetings have been well attended, the exercises interesting, and the collections and contributions liberal. We think these Churches will make a good report of themselves at the Association. It is very desirable that the local agents at once follow up these meetings and solicit subscriptions.—The amount pledged this week exceeds £50.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—A special meeting of the American and Foreign Bible Society was held in New York city on the 14th inst., to consider what might be done for Rooms, as they had been notified to leave those which they have occupied for several years past. The attendance was larger than had been anticipated, and a spirit of unanimity prevailed in their councils and a most cheering interest was manifested in its welfare. Rev. Dr. Welch presided, and after stating the particular object of the meeting, the special Report was read which resulted in

a Resolution to vacate the rooms in Broom Street and procure suitable temporary accommodations for the Society's local business.

A Committee was appointed to whom it was given to mature some plan, if possible, for purchasing or building a suitable structure with such conveniences for stores, rooms, and offices, that the rent might be saved for all that the Society might require. The Committee included men of so much business talent and wealth that the prospect is considered quite sure of success.

The regular annual meeting is to be held at Cleveland, Ohio; for this reason but a brief abstract was read, by the Corresponding Secretary, of the Annual Report, from which it appears that—"In the Home department, there have been changes in the mode of operations, and keeping accounts; and the management of the business according to the plans proposed last year, had resulted in a small gain of about \$250, to this department.

The receipts have exceeded expectations, amounting to \$42,312 25, notwithstanding the commercial embarrassments of a part of the year; the withdrawal of sixty auxiliaries, by the formation of the Southern Bible Society; and the difficulties resulting from the change of Secretaries in the middle of the year, and the change, also, of some of the agents. The receipts are larger than in any former year of the Society's history, except the last.

All the appropriations and demands have been met. \$21,570 have been supplied to the Foreign field, \$11,500 of it through the Treasury of the Missionary Union. The balance was principally expended in Europe. During the fifteen years of the operations of the society, \$240,460 have been expended in giving the Word of God to the destitute in foreign lands.

NEWTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.—The work of Endowing this valuable Institution has now been undertaken with an earnest will. Rev. Horace T. Love, formerly Missionary to Greece, has taken the Agency, at the solicitation of the Trustees. Instead of raising \$50,000 as was contemplated last year, the effort is now resolved upon for \$100,000, equal to £25,000, twice and a half what we are now contemplating for Acadia College. Several gentlemen who had already subscribed towards the first named sum have doubled or more than doubled their subscription. We wish them every success.

Grey squirrels have been introduced into Independence Square, Philadelphia, where they live and gambol among the trees, so tame as to feed from the hands of passers by.

We wonder how long before the vandalism manifested in the vicinity of St. John, will give place to such a degree of sensibility and refinement as would allow so pleasing a spectacle. At present no sooner is the first note of a spring bird heard gladdening the morning, and making a stroll so delightful for parents and children, but dogs and guns are in requisition and a rudeness and vulgarity of speech befitting such barbarous taste to endanger and pollute every pleasant nook; and thus what few chances might otherwise be afforded for a pleasant walk and healthful exercise are spoiled. We know of no sphere for Magisterial reform that would indicate a right direction of taste more urgent.

Rev. Dr. Dowling, one of the most laborious and successful pastors of New York city, has accepted the call of the Sansom street Church, Philadelphia, which has been without a pastor since Dr. Malcom left the last year.

WHAT NEXT!—We have laid on our table this week GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK FOR MAY. This very popular Monthly Journal, edited by Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, has been enlarged so as to contain 120 pages of Letter press, double columns, thus taking the lead of all American monthlies in the quantity of matter, and employing many of the most popular pens in the country. In addition to this amount of reading matter spread in a clear type upon beautiful paper there are four full page plates, besides many lesser embellishments. The Terms remain as before the enlargement, 15s. per annum. Messrs. J. & A. McMillan, Prince William Street, are the Agents.

The letter from Grand Lake, with an account of the Rail Road Meeting, reached us last evening after our paper was full. It will appear next week.