

told, that the necessities for accurate and thorough scholarship, and comprehensive knowledge not only of theology, but of other sciences to which it is most intimately related, are pressing beyond perhaps any other age in the world's history. Nor is it unreasonable to expect that the average scholarship of students for the ministry shall, from year to year, reach a higher standard. As our colleges are more fully endowed and equipped, our young ministers ought to be better furnished for their work. Is it too much to ask, that in addition to the ordinary drill and routine of study prescribed in the calendar, there will be found not a few, in every graduating class, who are specialists in certain departments of theology, who having directed their attention to some prominent question in sacred literature, and become familiar with it in all its bearings, shall give proof of their fitness for academic work, as well as for the regular duties of the ministry? Dr. Chalmers used to advise young ministers, that in addition to their weekly discourses, they should have always on hand some more elaborate sermon, demanding greater effort and more exact preparation. The advice is open to criticism, although given by such a great and good man; for, apart from the fact that faithful pastors cannot with the utmost diligence do more than their stated work—great sermons are very frequently great failures, as regards the edification of saints, or the conversion of sinners. But it is not Utopian to hope, that in the course of training for the ministry, there will be not a few who seek to acquire more than the average information on theological subjects, that warrants a class certificate, or satisfies a Presbytery, when a student applies for license. He who would master Church History (for example), will not be contented

with memorising the dates and facts contained in the text-book, but will seek to understand the origin, nature and causes of certain great changes in the discipline, government, ordinances and doctrines of the Church, which mark prominent epochs, and give colour and character to religious belief and life. Or if it be the department of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis, in addition to the usual arguments for the authority, integrity and inspiration of the Bible, he will seek to master the many perplexing questions regarding the genuineness of certain manuscripts, and the critical canons laid down by scholars for deciding disputed points that have agitated thinking minds in the past, and still perplex inquirers after truth. The fellowships now being established in certain colleges, afford noble opportunities for our students availing themselves of the advantages of foreign travel, and thus reaching a standard of theological attainments hitherto unknown in our Church and country. The additional years spent in such preparation, and the discipline undergone, will far more than compensate for delay in entering the ministry, and furnish the mind with weapons of attack and defence, which are never out of place, even in the humblest charge.

And now, ere these young brethren—called we trust of God and soon to be set apart to their life-long vocation—go forth from us, what need they but Christ's promise to the early disciples: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be my witnesses, unto the uttermost part of the earth." The apostles were not permitted immediately on Christ's Ascension to go forth and preach. They were to wait patiently and expectantly for the heavenly baptism; for something that university and college training cannot give—an inward spiritual