

them altogether of an advantage, that might lead to wealth and power and respectability in Society. The improvement of the mind in circumstances such as ours at present, would soon be eagerly sought for, and was in itself a real blessing—surely we ought to do all in our power, to give that improvement a right direction, and sanctify it by the admixture of religious instruction.

It was not intended to compel the young ministers or those who might hereafter be called to preach Christ, to substitute Hebrew, Greek, or Latin, or Biblical Criticism, for the plain declaration of the word of God—but to afford them an opportunity at as small a sacrifice as possible, to obtain a competent knowledge of such ordinary branches of learning, as it would very soon be considered by all classes in society, as disreputable and indicative of mere sloth and negligence, to be ignorant of—to enable them to keep pace in some measure, with the growing intellectual improvement of those, who were to be their hearers; and who would not respect them, if wilfully ignorant of such things as they themselves knew. It was well known that the grossest misrepresentations of the word of God and the most destructive errors were too often originated and dispersed by men deeply versed in human, and scriptural knowledge! and that none but such as were in some degree their equals in such knowledge, but who were also men of faith and prayer, were able to meet with, and confute them—the most absurd and dangerous dogmas would be boldly advanced by the learned infidel, if there were no fear, that the learned Christian would as boldly come forward and expose him to deserved contempt and reprobation.—On this was founded the necessity of sound Biblical criticism; of having men of God, who were also men of deep erudition.—The great business of the christian ministry did not require all this. The preaching of Christ may be said to rest on a plain and simple enunciation of the word of life, addressed to the hearts and consciences of men—and so it does—but as in a well disciplined army—so in the *great company of preachers*, we require not only the devoted and zealous youth, the intrepid soldier, and the veteran officer, but the able general, and the skilful engineer.

The above or similar arguments were addressed by several of the brethren to the meeting, and appeared to be fully appreciated by all present. The aged ministers from long and painful experience; and the younger, from recent but frequently distressing embarrassments and inconveniences, which had hitherto, and still attended their arduous endeavours to hold forth the word of life to all their perishing fellow sinners; bore ample testimony to what had been advanced: and it was truly affecting to hear our brethren Wm. Burton, Cunningham, and Marsters, relate the severe trials and difficulties, which had many times seemed to oppose an insurmountable bar, in the way of their preaching the Gospel—but the flame which the Spirit of truth and love, kindles in the heart of the youthful Herald of Salvation, when he calls him to preach Christ cruci-

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