

labour; expect plenty of that! Make up your minds cheerfully to enter any field which the Lord may open to you; there is not much choice. But in every field there will be found something to compensate for the toil, and in every heart that is engaged from love to Christ will be found more than enough to countervail the anxiety. During your studies do not set your heart too strongly on any particular kind of field. "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate." You are training to be missionaries, and must be willing to take any part of the work which the Lord assigns to you, the rough or the smooth—to occupy any place He may appoint to you, the highest or the lowest. * * * It would be well for those preparing for the ministry to take something more than an occasional glance at the field they will be called to occupy, that there be no disappointment when their term of study ceases.

Let me remind my young brethren that though the field presents a rural, and in many cases, a rough aspect, it does not follow that the people forming the congregations in such spheres will necessarily be ignorant, or disposed to be as easily satisfied as many a congregation in the rural parts of England, who have been born and brought up under the circumstances in which they are found. In Canada, for the most part, our congregations are formed of men who have lived in other spheres, and listened to many of the best preachers in the cities of England, Scotland, Ireland, and the United States. Men who are able to discriminate, and prepared to institute comparisons; if they can dispense with the polish, must have thought and instruction, or they will not be satisfied. * * * Labour, then, to be thorough students, that you may fully meet the exigencies of your future position. Think not that if you are to occupy a rural sphere, and preach in some country village with out-stations in a new settlement, that it does not matter about qualifications—that it is lost labour to seek a deep acquaintance with the doctrines of Christianity and correct methods of scriptural exegesis. Do not suppose that learning and study are wasted, if they are not to be employed on metropolitan audiences and refined society. Many of the occupants of our new settlements think for themselves, and know how to appreciate thought in others. * * * In rural districts much abatement is necessarily made in the demand for outward polish, because there are circumstances in which it is impossible to secure it. In external appearance it is scarcely possible to maintain the neatness and order so common and so easily kept up in the town. Travelling through dust or mud, and taking charge of your horse, will sadly interfere with that nice regard to mien which is the natural attendant of education and refinement. This applies to other professions in rural districts of Canada; but we are not to infer that because they will excuse the soiled or dusty coat, they are indifferent about a defective education. * * * Is it ever supposed that in the attainment of a lower standard of medical proficiency, a country practitioner will be likely to succeed? In consideration of his sphere of practice, is his curriculum lowered, or his license more easily obtained? No; it is wisely thought that it requires as much study to qualify for forming a correct diagnosis, as much skill to amputate a limb, or reduce a dislocation, or subdue a fever, in a country patient, as it would in similar cases in the city. So sin is as inveterate, infidelity as wily and deceitful, and the human heart as sealed against the truth, in the humbler fields of ministerial labour, as in the more polished spheres of refined society. Be assured, then, that it is necessary, whatever your field of labour, to go into it with a mind thoroughly qualified and furnished for the work. * * *