

Editorial.

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EDITOR: REV. SAMUEL N. JACKSON, M.D.

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"THOROUGHLY FURNISHED."

There is no folly more foolish than an undue haste in entering upon the work of the Christian ministry. Lack of proper preparation, thorough discipline and culture, must result calamitously to the preacher, the people and the denomination. There is no profession that will draw so long and largely upon the capabilities and acquirements of the man as the ministry, and unless a good foundation is previously laid, great deficiency will be traced in the labours of the life. Never in the past history of the Church was there a time when Christianity had a greater claim upon the culture of the intellect, as well as of the soul, than at the present. Not only is education rapidly spreading among the masses of mankind, demanding a highly educated ministry, but educated error through "science falsely so-called" is promulgated with great plausibility among all classes, demanding correction and refutation by the chosen teachers of the truth. This claim comes from every community: for though there are those who may be satisfied with but little, such should receive much, that they may become dissatisfied with their present selves and have their whole natures ennobled by deep insight into God's truths concerning both human and divine things, and which embraces all in this world as well as that which is in heaven.

Men must not precipitately enter the ministry, making its opportunities for the service of Christ their excuse. All members of any church can find all the work they want in their own church if they will but undertake it. But do they desire a wider field, our Christian Associations throw open to them a large home mission work. Do they wish to preach to the heathen, they need not go far from home, or beyond the circle of their acquaintances to find them, for there is something of the heathen in every man, and much more in some than there is of Christianity.

None may make the want of facilities for an education their excuse in not complying with this claim. In nearly every denomination such opportunities are offered that the child of sternest poverty, if called of God to this work, may have means of thorough preparation therefor. Probably no denomination presents better means for a thorough education of its ministers than does our own in Canada. To every accepted candidate for the ministry there is offered a full and free five years' course, embracing the curriculum of the Arts course of McGill University, with the degrees, and a full theological training in our college affiliated with the University; while, during each vacation, the Home Missionary Society furnishes fields of missionary labour, with a guaranteed remuneration. Thus the theoretical and practical are advantageously combined, and the student finishes a curriculum which, for thoroughness, need not be excelled. He is