

"Saviour of men, thy searching eye  
Doth all my inmost thoughts descry:  
No goods of earth my wishes raise,  
Nor the world's pleasures, nor its praise."

Of the *literary qualifications* of a minister I come now to speak. Their necessity in the political ambassador all will be ready to admit. I shall endeavour to show that the servant of God needs all the advantages which can be derived from them. He ought to be a man of education, for the obvious reasons why any man should be educated—to raise him in the social scale, to elevate his conceptions, and bring him up to his dignity in the creation. But more powerful arguments may be drawn from the nature of the duties he has to discharge. He comes in contact with all classes of men. The gospel must be preached to "every creature." Paul felt himself "a debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise." While the Christian minister is called to stand in the presence of kings and counsellors, he is required to "go out into the highways and hedges." The learned and the illiterate have equally "souls to save." A man of a well-disciplined mind will skilfully accommodate his instructions to the character of his hearers. He will employ language and illustrations suited to the taste of the scholar, and he can descend, with perfect consistency, to the capacity of the uneducated portion of the community. But a man of little learning is in danger of aiming at a display, and of adopting a style as far above his own understanding as above that of his audience. The ignorant may sit aghast; but the refined will be disgusted, and the pious grieved. I do not say that *all* uneducated ministers are of this description. I speak only of the natural tendency of ignorance upon the mind of a public man. I have known, and still know, uneducated preachers of a different stamp—men who have "forsaken all for Christ." Under their labours my soul has often been blessed. Listening to their fervent appeals, I have been convinced that the doctrine of "Christ crucified" may be illustrated without a knowledge of science. I shall never forget the earnestness of their manner, nor yet the success which has attended their preaching.—*God bless these Fathers in Israel, and bring them down to their graves in peace!*—But, my Brethren, the most useful of them have always regretted their want of early educational advantages, and have seized upon every opportunity for mental improvement which has, during their ministerial career, come within their reach. A powerful argument this in favour of an educated ministry.

It is proper to observe here, while advocating this qualification, that our learning should have a *reference to the ministry*. Universal knowledge no man can acquire. We ought, therefore, to study such branches as will be of the greatest utility in the situation which we occupy. The more learning we have, the better, if it is under the influence of divine grace, and can be brought to