

have gone by and they will never more return. But the minister is now to make his way by the power of argument and persuasion ; the power which is to go forth from an irreproachable character and consistent life ; the power which undisputed learning, talent and moral worth are to command, and must command ; the power arising from the deference which is to be paid, and which will be cheerfully paid to those who are worthy of this office. And the point which I make is that in order to maintain and to exercise this power, a minister must begin his life work, not only with a well-stored mind, but with mental apparatus in such working order that he can replenish those stores and convert his knowledge into wisdom to meet the ever-varying phases of the world's need.

(2). A second object to be aimed at is of course *to store the mind with useful knowledge*. In this direction there is little danger of going too far, and on the point suggested it is not necessary to dwell. The advantages of a wealth of knowledge are not now to be demonstrated nor is the point now to be argued whether the minister of the Gospel should be a *learned* man. Our Church has assumed and acted upon it for centuries, that the minister is to be an educated man. There is a strong temptation in a young and widely-extended country like ours to hasten the work of preparation. The needs of our Home Mission work are so great and so clamant ; the zeal of our Christian young men to be engaged in the work of preaching the Gospel is often so warm that the period of study seems long and sometimes irksome. Besides the financial difficulties which not infrequently impose a barrier in the student's way, the Macedonian cry which has grown loud and distinct in this age of Missions has induced many to shorten the period of preparation. But in the long run it is not best. For it remains yet to be proved that they who go forth in the fulness of their strength, and the maturity of a long preparation for their work, accomplish less in the ministry, than they who diffuse their work over more years, and enter this great office with diluted powers and feeble preparation, with attainments