

of Theological Institutes, renders it an indispensable rule, that those admitted to their privileges give evidence of such piety, zeal and ability as are demanded in the solemn work of the ministry. An unconverted ministry must do still more grievous damage to the cause of Christ, than an unconverted people wearing the Christian name. The responsibility of Committees of admission is therefore great. They need the "discerning of spirits." Circumstances may lead them to wrong conclusions. They may say like Samuel, surely the Lord's anointed is before me, when it is not so. It is evident also, that such seats of learning thrive and are loaded with blessed fruit, when spirituality and devotedness distinguish all connected with them. The young men engaged in the prosecution of their studies have especially a great work to discharge in maintaining alive the flame of piety, amid the cares and struggles of a student life. The temptations to which their peculiar position expose them, they are called to resist and overcome. The lamp must be kept burning, not only in secular studies but in the duties of the closet. Individual religion is not only to be kept but developed—not only preserved but increased. This view of the necessity of spirituality to the success of the Institute should give force, fervour and direction to the prayers of God's people on its behalf; that in particular the beloved young Brethren, who are set apart to preparation for the sacred office, may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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### SYSTEMATIC VISITATION.

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The subject brought before our readers by a letter in our last number, is one we would not wish our Churches to lose sight of, and we now lay before them a memorandum of directions, which we earnestly recommend to be studied. In our next number we may probably have further particulars to communicate, but in the meantime let our thoughts and our prayers be directed towards the object.

#### SYSTEMATIC DISTRICT VISITATION.

1. Divide the entire city, county or town into distinct districts, each comprising a definite territory, having reference to the number and size of Evangelical Christian Churches in the vicinity; and request each church to take a district, and become *responsible* for its permanent visitation, and in this way extend the practical influences of the churches of Christ so uniformly over the whole field, and not to leave anywhere a single neglected family.

2. Each church will divide its own district into small manageable sub-divisions of not more than 5 to 20 families each, and have them numbered and assigned so that each member of the church, if possible, who is not prevented by ill health or family disabilities, shall have a field of labour and responsibility to call forth his or her efforts, sympathies and prayers. Select the right visitors for the right places. If each member would take the spiritual oversight of but six families, none would be unreached.

3. Each visitor will be *responsible* for the faithful visitation of all the families of his or her section, and, if possible, bring each child and youth into the Sabbath School, and family into some place of worship. Repeat the visitation once a month, if practicable, and oftener when occasion may require; for sickness, removals, and other changes, will render such monthly calls on the *rich* and *poor*, as a general rule appropriate and desirable.

4. It is recommended that every church do especially designate one of the weekly prayer meetings in each month, to hear reports, receive information, and pray over this great work.

5. No church or school is considered under any obligation to *confine* their visitations to the families of the district assigned them, but will continue to enjoy the same liberty