

as a rule, the men eminent for usefulness have been as eminent for having passed through a special course of preparation for their work.

If this was needed in the case of extraordinary men who were raised up for a special providential mission, it seems even more necessary for ordinary men called to the regular work of the pastorate. Through education, the experience and wisdom of the individual is supplemented and corrected by that of the race. His power can be reinforced and sustained through an intelligent apprehension of spiritual as of natural laws, by those subtle latent forces waiting to be utilized, that are in no light sense the power of God. Thus it is seen, that what may be called the wisdom of men, is not opposed to that power. I had much to add in this connection concerning the importance of education, in qualifying for the various departments of pastoral work, which I must from want of time entirely omit.

I close with a single observation, which I add, though I fear I have not only exhausted my time, but your patience ; and that is, that the course here must be thorough enough to constitute an education. It is not at present any too long. In ordinary circumstances it should not be abridged. In our eager, impatient, over-excited age and country, the student is ready to suppose that the time devoted to Pagan classics might better be devoted to spiritual work. The Churches do not see any reason why they should not call and settle the youthful Apollos, who visits them. And the College directors, perhaps against their better judgment, reluctantly acquiesce in the arrangement. Now this is more foolish than for an artizan to go to his work without tools, or the hands trained to use them ; or for an architect hastily to run up a house on no foundation, or an insufficient foundation. Every architect knows that the foundation should bear a certain proportion to the size and height of the building. A naturalist can determine from the period of the growth, the longevity of a race or species. And every educator knows, that if it takes time to train the hand or eye for skilled labour, it must take much more to secure the full, harmonious working of all the human powers, physical, intellectual, and spiritual—to prepare the whole man in fact as an instrument of Divine grace to operate on other men of every variety, for their eternal well-being. Education is no forced, hot-house process. The young brethren are here not to cram for a special occasion, but to form intellectual tastes, to acquire habits of study and to master at least the rudiments of knowledge. When, after years spent here, duty flows into privilege, when work of this kind develops into play, when patient plodding becomes a pure and high enjoyment—then and not till then, they may be said to be educated.

Reflecting on this subject, and looking at the audience, I feel that I have said too much. I did not need to say so much on such a subject to such an audience. But the subject has imperceptibly grown on me in its interest, and I have been encouraged to proceed thus far by your kind indulgence. I have said enough at least to show that our ablest ministers cannot more wisely employ their ripest powers than in the service of the College, as professors and lecturers. Our merchant princes, to whom God has bestowed that blessing of the Old Testament, the "power to get wealth," and that richer blessing of the new, the grace to devote it to His cause, can find no surer investment to occupy for the Master till he come. And though last, not least, the young brethren who have laid themselves on the altar, can spend their best years in no better way than by careful, conscientious study to lay here a good foundation for a life of comfort and usefulness in their work ; so that thus commencing it, they may look forward at its close, to that which every faithful minister regards as his only and a full reward, the approval of the Master.

From having had the honour of assisting in a part of the examinations through which our young brethren have passed, I am happy to be able to add my testimony as to their exceedingly creditable and satisfactory character, showing the thoroughness and proficiency of these brethren in the various departments of study. And I doubt not that many of them—nay I do not see why I may not state my conviction more strongly and say, that I hope and believe all of these brethren now