

"I destine this my son, if such shall : the will of God, to be a preacher of that gospel on which my own dearest hopes rest, and I shall train him up for the service of the sanctuary." It is true this purpose may be frustrated : in the progress of education something unenitabie to the sacred office in the boy's capacity or character may be developed : he may turn out a boy of dull parts, or of an irreligious temper ; but there was nothing blameable in the parent's original purpose ; nay, it was praiseworthy, although in the end unfulfilled. If the hopes of a parent, or of the Church, should thus sometimes be blighted by the incapacity or misconduct of those who were intended for its services—if we should sometimes "sow many seeds to raise one flower"—this rather furnishes an argument for the system which directs the early education of many for the sacred office, that from the multitude these may finally be selected, who shall be best qualified for its duties. We are further encouraged to this practice from the well known effect of education upon the mind. This forms its habits. When a youth has been for years devoted to the contemplation of truth, and the observance of spiritual exercises, and the acquisition of skill for investigation, reasoning and persuasion, we may surely hope that he will be greatly superior to such as have never enjoyed these advantages, and better qualified as an Ambassador of Christ "to persuade men to be reconciled to God"—"to become all things to all men that he may gain the more."

And if in every age of the Church some educational preparation for the ministry has been deemed necessary, a far higher degree is demanded in our day, when general knowledge is so widely diffused, at least among the better clas-

ses. Numerous printed treatises, illustrating the scriptures, and practical religion, are in the hands of many, and within the reach of all. The improvement thence arising, requires a corresponding advance in the ministrations of the Christian pastor. To be interesting and profitable to his flock, his instructions must take a wider range and strike a higher tone. Men are not now so passive and credulous, as they were wont to be in ruder states of society, and he who would effectually enlighten and persuade, must not only assign satisfactory reasons, but also present them in the most attractive forms. This will make higher demands on the abilities and diligence of the teacher. Besides, as Christian society advances in knowledge and refinement, it will become more exact and fastidious. It will require that public instruction be more carefully prepared, and set forth with that accuracy of order and style, which shall be agreeable to correct tastes and cultivated understandings. To prevent, therefore, the sacred office from falling into disrepute and inutility, from the incompetence of those who fill it, its teachers must keep far in advance of the improvement of their age, and be qualified to assist and direct it.

We might now proceed to consider the academical and collegiate means requisite to ministerial preparation ; but we are admonished to bring these observations to a close for the present : and this we may do by insisting on a point formerly advanced, that the duty of preparing the Christian Ministry is one in which Christian parents ought to be most deeply concerned, since, from amidst the families of the Church, its future pastors and teachers must be raised up. The Priesthood is not now, as it was under the Mosaic Economy,