

REPORT.

Next, in importance, to the men themselves, for the work of the gospel ministry, both at home and abroad, is the qualification of those men for that work; and next, in importance, in the qualification, to the "preparation of the heart," having it touched by the Lord, and their lips touched with a live coal from the altar, and their "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace," is a thoroughly mental discipline, or intellectual training and a theological education. The Apostle's advice to Timothy was, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." He also declared that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Now it requires but little argument to show that those—the called and sent servants of God—who have the most thorough theological training, can the most properly "divide the word of truth," and are the most truly "perfect"—the most abundantly "furnished unto all good works."

It will, also, be at once seen how indispensably necessary is a scientific and classical education, in order to a good theological education.

Then, while in order to an efficient ministry, it is of the first importance that there be much study in the school of Christ, who spake and taught as man never spake and taught. It is well, also, to strive in the use of human means to acquire a better knowledge of God's truth, and to become as intellectually and scientifically qualified as possible, to take advantage of the thousands of facilities presented, by which that truth may be illustrated and enforced.

Our Society aims to assist the young men of our denomination, who are feeling that God has called them to the work of the christian ministry, to become suitably qualified for that position. It is vain for us to hesitate and parley, and refer to the past, and to what others did do or did not do. We should consider the present demand and necessities with regard to the subject of education, and do our duty.

Hitherto, on the part of many, there has been no interest manifested in the movement, and others appear only half-hearted. If it is an institution founded in superstition, or "zeal not according to knowledge," let us abandon it at once; but if it is in harmony with the gospel, a help to the dissemination of truth, and an accompaniment to the evangelization of the world, let us accept cheerfully, the privilege of assisting in sustaining its interests. If the object and the work are good and praiseworthy, and there is any fault in the working, any just cause for complaint or dissatisfaction with regard to the appropriation of funds, or to the anticipated result of the enterprise, let us with true manly and christian courage consider those things, and labour to adjust and establish this part of our denominational work, so that its working and results may be entirely satisfactory.

We speak thus, because in the past there have seemed to be *clogs*, and *frictions*, and *drag*, similar to the heavy movement of the Egyptian's chariots, in our educational machinery. But, "though we thus speak," we are glad to be able to report some progress and prosperity.

At our last Annual Conference, an effort was made to place our educational interests upon a more permanent basis. A document was prepared, in the form of an agreement, obligating those who were willing to sign it, to pay the sum set against their names, toward an endowment fund, the interest of which was to be used to aid our young men in securing an education. This agreement was to be laid before the Churches, with a view to obtain subscriptions to the amount of three thousand dollars. What the result of this movement has been, we are not yet prepared to say.