

which have least concern with their special calling. The course of their progress has reversed the course of charity : it began abroad, and has never yet reached home."*

Professor Blunt laments that "after nearly four years study for his degree, a few months are given to the Student to go through the only effectual course of Divinity Reading which the University encourages him to pursue."

Another recommends "if no time can be abstracted from the Undergraduate course, let direct Theological studies (including public reading, composition, and preaching) commence after the taking of the degree, and let a year be exclusively devoted to these professional objects. * * * * *

Were this plan in operation, we should hear less of 'the intellectual declension of the Clergy.' Men would not then be heard lamenting that they had no time to repair in their study the defects of the education received in the University."†

In our College we recognize the necessity of direct preparation for the Ministry throughout the course, and under the present system Divinity Students are expected to remain at least one year after the examination for the degree of B. A. In many instances they remain five years and even longer. Thus one reproach formerly brought against us has been to a great extent removed, viz. : that for the most important of professions, the least preparation was required. As, however, we cannot rely upon more than four years, we have found it necessary to adapt the regular course of Lectures to that period : for those who remain longer, special arrangements are made, and courses of reading pointed out, with occasional attendance at lectures.

The spirit with which we endeavour to inspire our Divinity Students is that breathed in our Ordination Service, "to draw all cares and studies" towards preparing themselves for their future labours ; the spirit breathed in the prayer of one of the brightest lights of our Church, himself a successful Candidate for the highest University honours, "May I be taught to remember, that all other studies are merely subservient to the great work of ministering holy things to immortal souls."‡

Believing, as we do, that all knowledge may be profitable for a Clergyman, if it be sanctified, we encourage a diligent pursuit of the usual University course, fully persuaded that the mental discipline, as well as the actual information, cannot be too highly prized, in subordination to the great aim of a more direct preparation for the Ministry.

But, above all, we seek to impress on them the absolute necessity of expe-

* Cornhill Mag. May, 1861.

† D'Orsey, pp. 37, 38.

‡ Henry Martyn.