

While I therefore decidedly oppose, as a general rule, to shortening the course of study, lowering the standard, or ordaining to the ministry any but thoroughly educated men, I see reasons for a fresh consideration of what that education should be, that is to say, what precise subjects in the unlimited fields of knowledge should be embraced in our curriculum, and whether the same course should be rigidly exacted of all. Practically this is not now done. Would it be better formally to acknowledge this fact, and to recognize two classes of ministers viewed from an educational standpoint? This would not be inconsistent with official parity. The office is one, but, confessedly under present rules, the ability and attainments of those holding it greatly vary.

One class might be accepted with comparatively limited technical acquaintance with branches of learning which are only collateral to their professional requirements. Taking into account natural aptitude, age, and other circumstances, some students might be directed at the outset, or at an early stage in their career, to follow this course. What it should embrace is a matter of detail upon which it is not necessary here to enter.

The other class, likely to be a comparatively small one in the event of proper tests being faithfully applied, should be required to give evidence of thorough literary culture and wide scientific and theological attainments. These would really be the men qualified to handle the vexed problems of textual and higher criticism, exegesis, and apologetics in all departments.

The granting of diplomas bearing upon their face such distinctions would be nothing more than extending to the domain of theology what universities are now doing in other departments by systems of options and by conferring a variety of specific degrees based upon this principle.

We pass now to the work of the Seminary as distinguished from that of the secular college. Here it is frequently alleged that there are many traces of mediævalism. Old creeds, that should have been deemed obsolete long ago, are still adhered to. The conservative spirit is unduly potent. The shadow