

veloped and strengthened, and it is by the same means that its aggressive work is to be done in pulling down the strongholds of sin and extending the kingdom of Christ. Faithful pastoral visitation will not suffice, nor will the decent and solemn administration of the sacraments. Effective preaching is the only instrumentality by which that work can be accomplished. The Gospel minister must therefore be a preacher, whatever else he may be, and regard that character as most distinctive of his high office. The designer of the monument erected at New York some time since in memory of John Bunyan hit this idea with perfect accuracy. The monument is described as a full length statue in bronze, holding a Bible in one hand and with the other beckoning to men. The brow is bare, the expression solemnly earnest, and the bearing dignified and impressive. Upon the pedestal is this inscription: "It had eyes lifted up to heaven; the best of books in his hand, the law of truth was upon his lips. It stood as if it pleaded with men."

Now where are we to look for such ministers? May we not expect our Colleges to give to the Church the men she needs—men able rightly to divide the word of truth, and to wield with mightiest effect the sword of the spirit? Doubtless such men will be forthcoming, and we may expect that year after year an increasing number of true Gospel ministers shall be sent forth to the work. What we wish to do now is to impress upon those preparing for the ministry the desirability of regarding their work of preparation as mainly a preparation for preaching, so that they shall constantly seek to make every department of study, exegetics, systematic theology, apologetics and church history, as well as homiletics, contribute to their efficiency in the pulpit. If they pursue these studies as ends in themselves,

they will make a mistake as candidates for the office of the ministry. If they endeavour to become merely good exegetes or theologians and are satisfied with that, they are not likely to do much for the Church or for Christ in the sphere which they have chosen. The pulpit is the "minister's throne"—his place of power as well as of honor, and unless he can fill it efficiently, his usefulness will be very contracted. We have to regret in this connection that our Colleges are on the whole so poorly equipped in the departments of homiletics and elocution. Speaking for Knox College and referring more especially to the department of homiletics, we are free to say that, while instruction is given by an eminently able and successful lecturer, the time placed at his disposal is miserably inadequate for dealing with the subject. We cannot but regard this as a serious defect in the tuition which the college affords to our future ministers. The other subjects of which a knowledge is deemed necessary are each taught throughout almost the entire three years' course. Homiletics is confined to a term of three months, and within that brief space students receive all the instruction which the Church provides in this college on the proper method of presenting or preaching the truth. That is, three sessions of six months, each one devoted to making them acquainted with the material, we might say the ammunition, which they are expected to use, and but a single term of three months to teaching them how best to employ and direct that material, so that it may do effective service. Now we have no objection to good ammunition and abundance of it, that the gun may be heavily charged with the most potent material, but we do object to such glaring lack of instruction in the skillful use of the material—the loading of the guns and the