

that the great object of many of them, especially those who are not blessed with "more than average brain-power," is to win a bursary rather than to secure that training which will best fit them for the great and honorable work of preaching the Gospel. I am ready to give the men in Knox the credit of doing their work faithfully as a rule, and to believe that very seldom does any student neglect one subject in order to gain a bursary in another. Surely your article pays rather a poor compliment to the students generally.

The other question is that of the study of Hebrew in the college. My letter is already so long that I can only say a word or two on this very important point. I feel that this is the weakest point in our whole course in Toronto. No fault is to be found with the tuition either in Knox or the University, for it is, I know, painstaking and thorough. Nor are the students themselves much to blame. The defect, I think, lies in the present regulations. Students who have the ministry in view should either have at least a two years' course in the University before entering on their divinity studies, or they should have a thorough drill in the grammar and text in the college itself. The former has many advantages, as the student is prepared at once to enter on the exegesis of the Old Testament Scriptures, and has more time for the other work of the theological course. The latter is the plan adopted in many of the Theological Seminaries in the United States, and it certainly secures a better average result than our system in Knox, where one student who has paid attention to Hebrew in the University, becomes quite proficient, and another, who has not taken it in his arts' course, can barely spell his way through a verse in Genesis in his third year in Theology. To my way of thinking the remedy is for the Senate of Knox either to insist on a two years' course in Hebrew previous to entering Theology, or to provide special tuition in the college, and insist on a certain standard of attainment in the knowledge of the *original* of the Old Testament Scriptures.

I have often thought, Mr. Editor, that it would be a good thing if either Presbytery, or the College Senate had more direct oversight of candidates for the ministry during their course in the University. As matters now stand it often happens that neither Presbytery nor College Senate has any knowledge, except it may be incidentally, of those in the University who have the ministry in view. I am of the opinion that both for the sake of the students on the one hand, and the church on the other, there should be oversight all along the course of preparation for the ministry. I would not have the church supply all the tuition when we have such splendid Provincial advantages as University college provides, but if the church had some way of guiding young men to those studies in the Arts' course which best fitted them for the ministry, I am satisfied it would often be of great value to the student. I for one should be glad if you give this point some attention in the Monthly, as you may be able to voice the experience of the students now in college on this important point.

But I have written far more than I intended when I began my letter. I am delighted with your first number for this year, though I do not quite agree with you on the subject of scholarships. I hope your circulation may largely increase, for I am satisfied it will be value to the college itself, as it is a credit to the students who have charge of it. As an alumnus of Knox college I am proud of the MONTHLY, and glad to know that the present college session gives the promise of being so successful.

Yours sincerely,

The Manse, Brantford, Nov. 20th, 1884.

F. R. BEATTIE.