

the original design, and is the still cherished desire of the Baptist body, in the founding and carrying forward of our Educational Institutions at Horton, namely, its *religious* aspect, to impart instruction under the influence of true religion. Not barely admitting the truth of christianity, but its power illustrated, its truths warm from the word of God, dwelling deep in the heart, to become the prevailing and controlling thing of life. A religious educational institution is not where a merely theoretical religion, or denominational creed is the burden of its christianity, but where the vital and energizing power of godliness, is the prevailing influence—the cherished and desired boon, where a sound conversion, a real and experimental piety is the felt necessity of the soul—is the prevailing conviction of those engaged in imparting instruction.

Of the importance of this feature in the character of our educational institutions, and of those who have charge of them, it is to be hoped that Baptists will never lose sight. Ceasing to cherish the real religious element, we fail to carry out the design which originated them, and whatever increase of funds or of students, and outer success there may be, without this, we shall be shorn of our strength, and "Ichabod" shall be written on their walls. The religious, is therefore the most important element—in the estimation of those who are engaged in conducting them, it must be considered second to no other, and the more deeply this conviction is embedded, the more permanently fixed in the mind, the more it influences and controls, the more powerful of success will be our institutions.

Is this the character of our educational institutions? Is the religious element cherished and fostered there? Is vital christianity, real living piety, and sound conversion the underlying feeling of those connected with them? If so, judging from the word of God, "those that honor me I will honor," we may expect to find evidences of God's power, illustrations of God's grace, instances of conversion of those who may from time to time, there receive instruction and mental training.