

Although we understand Mr. M'C. to be writing on the qualifications of the overseers of the congregations of the Lord, yet many of our readers suppose that he includes those of evangelists or proclaimers of the gospel to the world. That these should have as good an education as they can possibly obtain, must be apparent to all. To announce the glad tidings to the heathen, we must master in the first place their language. In this case, not only a thorough knowledge of the particular dialect in which we would address the people is indispensable, but a general acquaintance with the original of the Christian Scriptures and general science is absolutely necessary.

The Lord has given us the most obvious demonstration of this in the qualifications bestowed on his Heralds. It is true that he selected unlettered men—that not many wise, noble, or learned, were called—that he took the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; yet he forbade them going to the world with the mission of life and salvation until they were endued with power from on high. A large portion of this power was the ability of speaking all languages. He gave them a “classical education” himself in a moment! Let all the lovers of the ancient gospel be foremost, prompt and liberal, in promoting the cause of rational education: let them encourage pastors, teachers, evangelists, and all others, to give themselves to the study of the Bible, and those books and sciences that may be made subservient to the truth and the best interests of the human family.

The other point wanting in proof—not fully sustained by either the example or precepts of the New Testament—is that of “ministerial support.” That every congregation of the Lord should have three or more elders, bishops, overseers, pastors—(we use these terms interchangeably)—in order to come up to the ancient model, is so perfectly obvious and well sustained by Mr. M'C., that it is a matter of no little surprise that any believer in the New Testament would for a moment question it. That *all* these overseers should be sustained in ease and affluence by the congregations over which they preside, is an idea not to be entertained by any one having any respect for his own judgment, or any general knowledge of the Christian scriptures.

Many of our readers will however come to the conclusion that Mr. M'C. is opposed to raising any money for the purpose of sustaining men, to enable them to devote all their time, talents and energies, to the dissemination of the truth, and the proclamation of the gospel; indeed many of his remarks have a strong inclination in that direction. In Mr. M'C.'s view one of the most obvious errors of the age, on this subject, is the making of the Apostles the model. He admits that *they* had the right to claim a support; that it is an ordination of Heaven that he who proclaims the gospel should live by the gospel: but this he confines to the apostles, and seems to consider that for any one to make an application of 1 Cor. ix. 1–10, to either evangelists or pastors, makes them apostolic successors. Now we do not believe in apostolic succession, and we are far from holding up the apostles—as *such*—as models for either pastors or evangelists; but it must ever be borne in mind that in the first Church the apostles filled all the offices; they were the bishops, evangelists, deacons, almoners—every thing! When congregations were set in