

capable of submitting to you short communications. It would be well for them to try their powers; and who knows what of native talent might thus be elicited? It all will put their shoulder to the wheel, in the various spheres of sustaining the magazine, assuredly it will prosper, and be a blessing. Trusting that this effusion of sincere good will towards the brotherhood in our Association, and all its interests, will be properly received by those who read it; and wishing you much success and comfort in all your important labours,

I remain, Dear Sir, yours very truly,
FRATERN.

SUBSTANCE OF THE LECTURE DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF THE DIVINITY HALL OF THE U. P. CHURCH, IN TORONTO

16th October, 1855.

BY THE REV. JOHN TAYLOR, M.D.

Having, as is most meet, solemnly acknowledged God; having thanked Him that, by his good hand upon us, he has again brought us together; and having implored his blessing on our pursuits—that blessing “without which all purposes are frustrate, all efforts are vain,” let us now, in a spirit of humble dependence on the grace and strength of the Almighty, address ourselves to our labours. And let me, at the threshold, offer my sincere and affectionate salutations to the ingenuous youths, who during these few months, are to be my fellow-students in theology, cordially bidding them welcome to such advantages as this institution affords, and intreating them that, while they purpose to be diligent and assiduous in the prosecution of their studies, they will not fail to strive together with me in their prayers to God, for me, as for themselves, that by the plenteous impartation of the Spirit of wisdom, and of good understanding in the fear of the Lord, we may be progressively filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that we may all prove good ministers of Jesus Christ—workmen who need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Thus, may it graciously please Him, who can save by many or by few, to render this humble seminary of sacred learning, subservient to the advancement of the glory of His great name, the prosperity of His Church, and the edification and comfort of the souls of His people, along with all which, the real welfare of our country, social and civil, will surely and certainly be promoted. “Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands, yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.”

Though Schools of the Prophets, perhaps, in some degree, analogous to our Divinity Halls, seem to have existed very early in the Church, yet we do not claim for the latter institutions a direct Divine appointment—we do not hold them to be, as theologians speak, strictly *jure divino*. There is no express injunction in Scripture for the special training of those who are to be invested with the office of pastor and teacher in the New Testament Church, still less of course, are there rules laid down in the inspired writings for the particular course of studies to be pursued, or the mode of tuition to be adopted. We are content to rest all this, like much more in the external administration of the affairs of the church, on the basis of Christian expediency; and we are fortified in the conviction that christian expediency is clearly and strongly on our side, by the fact which is indisputable, that almost every denomination of professing christians concur with us, in the propriety of specially educating, in some way, those who are to engage in the work of the ministry, as well as by the still more weighty consideration, that the approval and blessing of the King