

would be to give the student such a practical knowledge of the whole collection of books and epistles as would enable him to use them as the carpenter does his tools or the physician his drugs. He would be acquainted with the materials at his command. He could then lay his hand on this or that as the occasion required. Whatever forms of spiritual disease required his attention, the remedy would be at hand. It would not be necessary to ransack the whole dispensary and then not be sure that he had found the right one.

But who would be sufficient for these things? Not simply a man of piety or a successful pastor. The man who would be capable of filling the situation, would need to be a man, not only of the highest spiritual type, and abreast of the times, but also a scholarly man, of high linguistic attainments, not only thoroughly acquainted with the vernacular of the Old and New Testaments, but with the cognate languages; one in whom students could have perfect confidence in his ability to draw his material from all sources, and discern between good and evil; and, of course, a man who would have a masterly grasp of the Word of God from a literary, historic, and evangelistic point of view.

What would be some of the advantages of such a course of instruction? It would enable the men graduating from our theological halls to meet the demands of our times. It would be

one of the best safeguards against error, and one of the best means of counteracting the influence of reckless criticism, and a weapon second-to-none for the apologist. Side by side with the spirit of inquiry, there is a spirit of revival sweeping over the whole of Christendom which can be satisfied with nothing less than the most evangelical presentation of Biblical truth. As one writer has said, "The time is coming, if it is not already upon us, when a man who can handle his English Bible as a thoroughly familiar student acquainted with its contents only can, will be more in demand than the most accomplished scholar who, with all his gettings, has not yet acquired a real knowledge of that book." In almost all lines of life now, we find our specialists—in Law, in Science, and in Philosophy,—and the preacher who is going to make himself felt in the coming years, must needs be a specialist in Bible knowledge. This must be done whatever else is left undone. In view of the present demands put upon the average preacher by the multiplication of church societies and associations of social reform, and the share of attention he is expected to devote to these, thus shortening the time for private study; and in view of the increased Bible knowledge of the average hearer in the congregation obtained in well organized Sunday schools and Bible classes, and the spirit of inquiry which is abroad everywhere, even in the most rural con-