

the Baptist Churches of the country, and embracing in its delegation the old and the comparatively young, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, the broad-minded and the narrow-minded. To this Convention, every serious proposal must be submitted for ratification. Year by year the Board must report in full concerning the life and work of the institution and submit to a popular discussion and vote at every point. Imagine the amazement of Carlyle at such a democratic conception. Nor must we be surprised if many another shakes his head with an air of apprehension. It must be admitted that, in some respects, this government by a popular body heightens the difficulty of the educational problem.

From this I pass to a second problem, a problem of a more particular sort, a problem which for some years has been in abeyance, but is now again demanding consideration, and at least a working solution. I allude to

THE PROBLEM OF THEOLOGY.

The design in the educational effort seems to have been from the first to give to the young people of the denomination, whatever their purposes in life, a liberal education under positive Christian influences. Interwoven, however, with this general design has been a special solicitude that the rising ministry might be profitted by the provision made, and might bring to the leadership of the churches informed and disciplined minds as well as devout hearts. The leaders have rightly felt that fundamental to a true culture was the discipline furnished by the general course, and there the emphasis has been put. The desire, however, to do the best possible for the ministry has inspired repeated efforts to add to the general course some distinctly theological work. Besides other less important efforts, there was in the fifties and sixties a period of 15 years when instruction was given in various theological subjects by the late Dr. Gramp. In the seventies and eighties for a period of nine years theological work again assumed very respectable proportions under the instruction of the late Dr. Crawley, and Dr. Welton now of McMaster University.

In the year 1883 Dr. Welton was invited to a professorship in the Toronto Baptist College, now the theological department of McMaster, and an overture was made by the Toronto brethren with a view to making the Toronto College the Theological School for the Baptists of the Dominion. Under that proposal, theology was abandoned at Acadia; though not forever, as after events have proved. Some students for the ministry have gone to Toronto for theology; more have continued to go to Newton, Rochester and Chicago; some have gone nowhere. A section of the denomination has never been happy that theology was thus dismissed, and as a result of a growing demand for its restoration, a theological course was elaborated six years ago, was ratified by the Convention, and inserted in the calendar. It was the best proposal that seemed likely to prove practicable. It has been