

the work of the class may be made helpful for the attainment of that ideal.

It is a problem that presents itself afresh to us at the beginning of every session, how we can most effectively make the work of the classroom helpful in preparing our students for the ministry of the Gospel. The difficulties of teaching, like those of preaching, can be known only by experience. Here, as elsewhere, it is easy for the onlooker to criticise another's work; but there is no uniformly best method of teaching any more than of preaching. The main difficulty, however, in the theological training is not to impart information, nor even to awaken intellectual interest, but to be truly helpful in fostering correct ideals and worthy aims as well as in suggesting and aiding faithfully sustained effort.

In a school of painting much may be done to give instruction about form, shadow, perspective and colour, so that the pupil may acquire some clearness of thought and accuracy of touch. But the far loftier service, when it can be rendered, would be to quicken in the young artist's soul the true conception of his calling and the longing to attain the height that seems ever beyond his reach, but that still beckons him upward, bidding him to do his best,—such a longing as thrilled the soul of the young Raffaele when, standing before a masterpiece of Michel Angelo, he said, "And I, too, am a painter."

So, in a school of theology, much may be done in the way of equipping the student with stores of knowledge and of training him in methods:—and all this is as essential as training the young artist in the use of his materials and in the technique of his art:—but, is it not possible, during his course, to bring him closely into touch with the spirit of prophet and psalmist and apostle, of Christian missionary and preacher and defender of the faith, as that he shall go forth from the College halls possessed by the subduing yet inspiring conviction that he, too, is a minister of Christ for his fellow-men?

The Church needs more men in the ministry, but she has still greater need for more *man*, for those with the pulse of a fuller life, a richer personality, carrying with it the more abundant power of service and of helpfulness. This has always been her need. In the fighting force of a people there may be an elect few, of each of whom it may be said, "One blast upon a bugle horn was worth a hundred men." Over the dying Elisha the king of Israel, with true insight into the prophet's worth, mourned for him as the chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof. The hope of Domsie of Drumtochty that his pupil would be "another scholar in the land" meant far more and far better than that he would be a living cyclopedia; his vision was of one who, by reason of his culture, his insight, his wisdom, might be a trusty counsellor for the community, an authority from whose words and life a wide circle might take its tone. In every land and age "a *man* shall be as an hiding place from the wind and a covert from the tempest, as rivers of waters in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land"; and there is no such gift of God to a community as a man of that kind, that in him his fellows can find shelter and solace and strength. No