

who will warn the wicked, and watch over the blood-bought heritage?

"It is not the getting of men that is the question now. Nor is it, 'How may we best secure that they shall be learned, able, eloquent, polished, educated men?' No; these may be very needful points; but they are of the second grade. They are not the essentials; they are not indispensable. They ought not to be overlooked by a church, but care ought to be taken that they shall only occupy the second, and not the first place, in the training of our youth. They have too long been treated as paramount; . . . they have too long been held in undue estimation by the people of God. Hence the wisdom of man's words has often made the cross of Christ of none effect. Hence the taste and passion for eloquence, pulpit eloquence, have vitiated the simplicity of our taste, and destroyed the relish for ungarlished truth, and mightily contributed to hinder the simple and natural preaching of the everlasting Gospel. . . .

"We do rejoice that the question regarding ministerial character and qualification has at length found its way into a higher region, and is to be treated on higher principles, and as embracing more spiritual elements than it has hitherto done among too many even of the reformed churches of Christendom. We rejoice that our circumstances have at length brought us to this. It is high time that it should be so. We have long enough occupied worldly and secular ground in this matter, and weighed ministers in the balances of earthly literature, or science, or eloquence. We have long enough treated our students as mere aspirants to literary fame, instead of being those to whom we were to commit the weightiest charge, and the most solemn responsibility, which can devolve upon either man or angel. When the question is put, 'Who is sufficient for these things?' it is high time to answer it as the Lord himself teaches us, 'My grace is sufficient.' We have often, in time past, said that learning, and talent, and eloquence, were enough to make a man sufficient. Right glad are we that this time is gone by, and that a different standard and different balances are coming into use, — the standard of the apostles, the balances of the sanctuary. Right