

must be changed so as to adapt men to that conception. I mean this : if the minister of the Gospel is to be only a general agent and manager of all sorts of guilds, societies, "branches" and organizations of young people ; if the preaching of the Gospel is to be but a respectable concomitant of these things, while the preacher himself becomes the obsequious oracle of the Y.P.S.C.E. and the other good things that are using up the alphabet, then the course of study at present in vogue decidedly overshoots the mark. If the minister is to be a mere expert in the discharge of social functions ; an indispensable adjunct of five o'clock teas ; if his business in life is to attend interminable meetings and conventions, to sit on exhibition at all sorts of gatherings, to sanction by his presence all manner of quasi-moral and religious movements, to hold himself in readiness to pronounce the benediction at the call of orators—male and female—who sacrifice themselves to good causes at the rate of ten dollars per night and expenses, then a cheaper, shorter and less laborious course of training than that prescribed would be in order. But if the minister of the Gospel is to be a herald of the cross, "an able minister of the New Testament, rightly dividing the word of truth," bent on making "full proof of his ministry" in Scriptural ways ; if he is to be set—like Paul—for the defence of the Gospel, and to labor while life lasts for the conversion of sinners and the edification of the body of Christ, then I submit that those who have framed the curricula for the Colleges of our Church have fairly judged of the requirements of the case. No preparation can be too laborious or profound for such a work—a work that has taxed the energies of the strongest men in every age of our Christian history—a work the results of which surpass in importance the farthest flight of human imagination—a work which on this very account demands all the culture that can find mind to conflict with mind, which can enable men to so shape and direct truth that it shall reach the conscience, and shall make the sinner tremble when the law speaks out its thunders or be filled with joy when the Gospel whispers peace.