

values the principles of Independency enough to make some personal sacrifice, if need be, to plant and propagate it, and under a sense of his own immeasurable obligation for the Gospel of Christ, shall give "*as the Lord hath prospered him,*" be it little or much, shall be understood as voting "YEA!" and shall realize the truth of our gracious Master's words—

"IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE."

ADDRESS TO THE STUDENTS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA,

DELIVERED AT ITS 30TH COMMENCEMENT; MONTREAL, 14TH OCTOBER, 1868.

BY REV. EDWARD EBBS, OTTAWA.

BELoved young Brethren, in obedience to the call of the Board of Directors of this College, and in warmest sympathy with you in your desire to cultivate your minds and hearts, preparatory to a life-long engagement of your powers for Christ in the Gospel Ministry, I invite your devout attention to some of the elements of efficiency in this your chosen vocation. As a motto—nay, more—as a *golden text*, to be inscribed in most conspicuous characters on memory's tablet, and retained in daily remembrance, let me give you the following lines from the pen of the Apostle Paul, which you will find recorded in

Ephesians iii., 16-19: "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

The Divine spirituality, the superhuman energy, which animate these intercessory breathings, are the elements of Ministerial efficiency that I would urge you, above all, and before all, to cultivate. Oh! for such a baptism of fire upon the speaker and yourselves at this hour!

1.—The first element of efficiency that I will name is *strong attachment to Jesus Christ*.

To every believer "He is precious." All saints comprehend in some measure His incomparable worth. But there is every conceivable difference among His disciples, as to the degree of their personal attachment to Him. None can efficiently proclaim to his fellow men the riches of Christ, unless his own heart be surcharged with His love. In this prayer of the Apostle for the Ephesians, the one thing needful is represented to be the indwelling Christ, infusing and diffusing love through all the soul, imparting such a largeness of heart as to receive "*all the fulness of God.*" This is another type of Christian experience from that meagre minimum that barely retains life. It is not possible to be "a good minister of Jesus Christ" without an *enthusiastic attachment* to Him. This was very emphatically indicated by our Lord in that remarkable three-fold challenge of Peter's *love*, as the indispensable qualification for feeding Christ's sheep. It will not suffice to have a clear perception and honest espousal of Christian Doctrine, however comprehensive and scriptural. Pascal truly says—"God has designed that Divine truths should pass from the heart into the head, and not from the head into the heart: and so, as it is necessary to know human things in order to love them, it is necessary to love Divine things in order to know them." To know the love of Christ and his personal attractive power, is a better preparation for preaching Christ than to understand all mysteries and all knowledge besides. Beware of substituting a system of Theology for the living Lord Jesus. Dr. Merle D'Aubigne remarks—"What the Eternal Father has given us is not a system, it is His own Son. He who merely attaches himself to a system, will easily forsake it for another system; but he who in reality attaches himself to Jesus