

Knox College, many would seek their education in other institutions. The loss would not only not be serious, but would be eminently advantageous to the College and the Church. The Church would be benefited by receiving a larger number of educated ministers, for it would be found that students would hesitate to deliberately seek their education at institutions where the education would be notoriously inferior to that of the students of Knox College. Congregations would specially note the fact in selecting pastors. The College would itself acquire a reputation and a standing which would attract the very best students to its halls. The college which will have the courage to insist upon the possession of a degree in Arts from every student who seeks admission to its theological course will be the one which will specially command the respect and liberality of congregations.

It has been further said that, were the College to insist on a university degree being first obtained before students are received, it would be a limitation on the operation of the Holy Spirit. This argument, which is somewhat questionable, appears to pre-suppose, to some extent at least, that the Spirit is more active in His energy among the "Literates" than among the university men. So far as

human observation can permit of any judgment being formed on this subject, it has not been borne out by experience. It must be remembered also that the Church needs educated ministers, and that the Spirit does not provide or promise the needful literary training. It is certainly true that the Spirit of God works when and where He pleases, but His gracious operations, it must be remembered, are extended to multitudes who are utterly unfit for the public ministry of the Word. He certainly does not encourage superficiality in training for the ministry, or the desire on the part of students to get into the Church with the least possible quantum of education. Those who complain that the rule contemplated would preclude persons who are desirous of abandoning their business, and late in life studying for the Church, from entering the ministry, might peruse with profit the words of the Apostle Paul in I. Corinthians vii. 20, where he says: "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called."—*Westminster*.

[In the above communication, Mr. Clark deals with a question affecting all branches of the Church, and it is high time for all of them to take concerted action in the matter. Perhaps the Presbyterian Church can show the way.—ED. C. E. M.]

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

The anniversary number of *The Atlantic Monthly* is truly a notable one. The opening article by James Lane Allan is on the two great principles in fiction, that is, as he characterizes them, the masculine and the feminine. No one can deny that there is much truth in what he says, but on the other hand facts can be quoted to support almost any literary theory. Kipling's "Recessional

Hymn" is an instance in Mr. Allan's judgment of the union of both principles. "Caleb West," a new serial by Hopkinson Smith, opens with great promise. There is a healthiness and a vigor about his portrayal of character that will attract liking from any straightforward mind. No one who has been in Edinburgh should miss "Penelope's Progress," there conducted by Kate Douglas Wiggin.