

But is not personal piety in the preacher the first requisite to be considered? Certainly. A regenerated heart and a life of piety are taken for granted. The absence of such would rule him out of consideration as a preacher of the gospel. But there is also wanted a weight of personal character, together with a heart aglow with fervor in seeking the betterment of his fellow-men and the glory of his Lord and Master. Luther's heart helped the Reformation as well as Luther's head.

In thus emphasizing the necessity of heart preparation, there is no intended reflection on the mental discipline and scholastic attainments and professional equipment which you have sought and found in this college. To be a properly furnished gospel minister one needs all the instruction which can be imparted to him during the few years of a college course. Both you and your professors feel that the time and curriculum of study should be extended in order that the preachers of the future should be men of God more "thoroughly furnished unto every good work."

Nor is the knowledge imparted in a college intended to be the stock-in-trade for the whole ministerial career. There is, and there always will be, an extensive course of reading and study before you to reveal to you the thoughts of others and to stimulate you to thoughts of your own. The true student need not fear senility—need not fear "the dead line of fifty—for he will be always intellectually young and always abreast of the age. The late Chas. Spurgeon shrewdly remarked that "vacant congregations are not afraid of grey hairs in the head, but of grey hairs in the sermon."

The present age is impatient of mere repetitions of the traditional; impatient, too, of mere verbiage and of jugglery with Scripture and inaccuracies of interpretation. But this age delights in the man of honest convictions, especially when his convictions have manifestly passed through the crucible of his own investigations. Further, this age delights in hearing convictions expressed not in a timid, apologetic manner, but in the positive tone of one who knows whereof he affirms.