

tration of the efficacy of the voluntary principle, and the power of Christianity free from State control.

3rd. In view of the history of the ejected ministers of 1662, it is abundantly evident, that had their learning been less solid, and their theological attainments of a lower order, great as was their devotedness, their influence over a large amount of mind could neither have reached so deep nor extended so far as it had done under His blessing who led Paul to charge Timothy to "give attendance to reading," to "neglect not the gift" that was in him, and to "take heed unto the doctrine."

It has often been said that the first preachers of the Gospel were uneducated people—a few humble fishermen; but the fact has often been strangely overlooked, that—first called to the school of Christ as disciples—it was by a course of years of instruction that they were educated up to their high office by Him in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

It is also worthy of remark, that Paul, the Apostle who had not similar preliminary advantages, was a man chosen from among the educated in his day; and that soon after his conversion, he was led by the providence of God to the solitudes of Arabia, and was kept there for a considerable time, doubtless receiving from the Great Teacher additional instruction and spiritual training before fully entering on his official career.

It was mainly owing, under God, to the desire to get instruction for the clergy, that intellectual light was kept alive through the middle ages. The great Reformers, Luther, Melancthon, Zuinglius and others, laboured for the advancement of learning among the preachers: and there are special characteristics of the age in which we live that should be recognized as some of the powerful inducements to cherish and seek to promote in our respective localities, a high sense of the importance of a well educated ministry.

It is earnestly to be desired, that the Congregational College of British North America may receive a growing support from all our churches.

Finally, whilst placed under very different circumstances from those of the 2000 of 1662, the fidelity they exercised, the spirit they cherished, let them be ours. Let that great principle of fidelity to conscience and to God, which has done so much towards the achievement of the present amount of civil and religious liberty in England and other parts of christendom, and which is a halo of glory around the names of its devoted adherents, be more than ever a vital and all-animating principle in our souls, and let us do what we can towards its more rapid growth in the mental and moral soil of Canada.

And whilst we join the many thousands in Israel who are delighting, in the course of this commemorative year, to do honor to the memory of those devoted men of 1662, let us be far away from resemblance to the people who garnished the tombs of the Prophets, but partook not of their spirit. Let us be "followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises;" and, with humble reliance on Almighty grace, may we be enabled to serve *our* generation according to the will of God.

COLLECTION FOR WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

At the meeting of the Congregational Union recently held, it was resolved to recommend the Churches to make a collection in aid of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund on the first Sabbath in August.