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DESIDERATA IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Two articles have already appeared in this Magazine on the necessity and value of a liberal ministerial education. We cannot believe that any farther argument on these points is required. It is the universal desire of the Presbyterian Church to possess a learned as well as a godly ministry, and to raise rather than reduce the standard of education for the sacred office.

But is the present course of education satisfactory in its results? Is there such an adaptation of the preparatory studies to the actual exigencies of ministerial duty, as one might expect to find in this practical age? And, as a consequence, is it usual that the young men who issue from theological halls, give high satisfaction to the Presbyteries of the Church, or meet the expectations of our intelligent people? Now we are far from any thought of disparaging our own ministerial ranks as compared with those of other Churches. From such a comparison we might have nothing to fear; but it is vain to content ourselves with the poor reflection that our Church is as well provided as other Churches, and shut our eyes to the amendments that the present system of education may be proved to require. Granted, that unreasonable expectations are sometimes put forth, and by persons who are the least distinguished for liberality in ministerial support. We offer no excuse for people who provide for the minister of religion the income of a common mechanic, or of a subordinate clerk, and yet expect to obtain the services of a highly educated man. But, while there is no apology for unreasonable demands, and while the people are admonished to attend to their duty in providing for the ministry a more equitable support; surely at the same time heed should be taken to the best means of providing for the people a well-taught and well-bred, as well as active and pious ministry. It may not be a pleasant fact, but fact it is, that both in the mother country and in Canada, many of the young preachers who appear are unwelcome to the more intelligent congregations, and much difficulty is experienced in filling up the more important pastoral charges, when they become vacant.