

in those days of preternatural endowment Timothy might not think of preparatory courses of instruction for such candidates, as might come under his eye; nor perhaps would he think of such sacred schools as, in the days of prophetic inspiration, blest and beautified Israel's Church. But assuredly, the words imply, that an order of spiritual Teachers shall be kept up in the Church, and that to the Governors and rulers in the church, belongs the obligation and the duty of seeing that a suitable array of such shall at no time be wanting. Accordingly, we find no fact better attested than this, that in the times which immediately succeeded the apostolic age, Seminaries were set up at Antioch, at Ephesus, and at Alexandria, to name no more, within whose goodly walls, "faithful men" were trained for the service of the sanctuary. It is also well known, that in former and in later times it has always been the Christian Church that has attended to the matter of instituting and endowing the halls of literature and Science; and that these not only breathed a religious spirit but were "part and parcel" of the spiritual machinery which the Church set forth and regulated and controlled. At and after the reforming period the men of learning and the "faithful men" were identified. The lights of science, and the stars in the galaxy of the churches, were to a very great extent, one and the same. It is not so now. We live in an age of disruptions, and secularisations; an era far more of materialism than of spirituality; and hence it has become a solemn question for the churches to settle; shall we calmly wait till candidates for our pulpits shall come forth from the Seminaries of learning, invested with the insignia of attainments and of honours, transcendently imposing, but still, exclusively intellectual and secular? or shall the Church keep her watchful eye on her aspirants for the ministry, from a far earlier period in their mental and moral history, and seek to mould and fashion them in a manner more in harmony with Scriptural studies and an evangelical training? Remember, it is of "faithful men" the Church is in pursuit; and it is extremely questionable, whether she shall always find such "ready made" to her hand; or be compelled to put forth her own arm to assist, at least, in rearing them to her mind? Yea, is there no hazard of a sad defalcation, even in respect of numbers merely? to speak of nothing more. We need *talent* as well as *piety*; and the *world* values the first at a high figure, while the Church looks as if she would leave both, at a painfully low discount, speaking of the matter financially.

But, "*we are a School of Theology.*" It is granted; and God forbid that the Theology which is put forth may ever become unscriptural and ineffectual. *We are a School of Theology*; that is, we are not a School of Medicine; nor of Law; nor of the Arts; but assuredly, this does not mean that we are forbidden to go beyond the magic line of a fixed curriculum; that we are to bind ourselves down to rigid and unbending technicalities; and that when we discover a deficiency in our previously required Literature, we are not at liberty to make it up out of our own ample resources. In England, I know of at least three Colleges exclusively theological and all in connexion with the