

occupying stations of more or less importance in different professional departments, among which that of teaching the Schools of the country is not the least. Others are engaged in agricultural or mercantile life, with such a share of general information as must greatly contribute to give increased usefulness and respectability to those pursuits.

But more than this; a general thirst for knowledge is becoming daily more manifest, and even among those who have never entered the doors of our Seminaries, a love for study and the acquirement of learning has been awakened which must go on and increase. As respects the future, those benefits may in some measure be estimated by the supposition that our efforts should suddenly cease, and that the influence we now exercise, direct and indirect, upon the mental improvement of the population, should be wholly withdrawn. Who can contemplate unmoved the result of such a deprivation!—Who that possesses the least regard for the real interests—the temporal or spiritual prosperity of his country, but must view such an event as one of the heaviest misfortunes that could befall, not the Baptist Denomination alone, but the community at large? At a moment when our holiest hopes, our most sacred privileges, and our dearest interests, both civil and religious, are not without danger of being undermined and corrupted, may we not ask whether the incalculable influence to be derived from the blessings of an enlightened education, could be neglected or trifled with, without the most imminent peril! But one response can be given in every breast to such an enquiry, and that implies the urgent need of tenfold zeal, activity and sacrifice, in the cause of our Educational Institutions.

It may here possibly occur to some who are liable to be easily discouraged, that partial failures have at times taken place in carrying out certain measures connected with our plans. Suppose it to be so; is it anything more than is incident to every human enterprise? Resolution and perseverance are ever found necessary to repair the mistakes and miscalculations of men, and in the present, as in every other case, "Patient continuance in well doing" is a chief and indispensable duty. It is more than a sufficient answer to all such objections to say, that we have already reaped fruits of untold value to the present and future welfare of our country.

The debt of the Society is still large, and difficulties are yet to be surmounted. The amount of liabilities has, however, been gradually and materially lessened, and the same spirit and energy that

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