

But our Lord used the rough, uncouth Peter before he used Gamaliel's apt student. And in the history of our denomination on this continent and in the "old land," we have many instances where God has accomplished wonders for his church through strong, honest, whole-souled men who knew the Bible only in their mother tongue. And when the Master summons such again, whether from the farm, the anvil or the cobbler's bench, let not his church object. Nevertheless it is true that the ministry which creates stable, intelligent, enterprising churches, — which moulds and controls public sentiment for Christianity, which maintains its hold upon our children and keeps them from drifting away from the faith of their fathers to other communions, is a ministry thoroughly trained in secular and sacred learning. The ministry we wish for our children who are receiving education in public schools of unsurpassed excellence is a ministry pious, sound, and learned. The ablest are none too good to be our children's pastors. Any body of Christians in this year of grace that does not provide for a learned as well as godly ministry is sure to fall to the rear. We have no need to do this. Turn the faces of our brethren who are called to preach to our Institutions which under God can fit them for enlarged and permanent usefulness. Create a sentiment in our churches in favor of attainment as well as piety in those who are to be instructed in the most important and sacred things. Exhorters and evangelists have their place in awakening the thoughtless and pointing them to the Cross, but exhorters and evangelists never have, and never can, build up God's people in their most holy faith. Men enriched with knowledge and "apt to teach" are indispensable if our churches are to be intelligent, strong and stable. We wish, therefore, to see your choicest sons, the brightest in intellect, noblest in disposition, the fairest in their prospects, consecrated to a course of thorough preparation for the work of the ministry. There was a time when Christian fathers and mothers devoutly prayed the Lord to incline the hearts of their sons to the ministry. No higher honor, no sweeter privilege could they have than to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Are fathers and mothers to-day thus anxious for their sons, and the best of them, to enjoy the honor, endure the sacrifice, and bear the responsibility of a life separated from worldly gain and