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THE STRENGTH OF YOUNG MEN FOR THE MINISTRY.

(IN CLOSING THE CLASS OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY FOR THE SESSION, DR. GORDON GAVE THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.)

EVERY one knows how strong in our congregations is the preference for young men, how seldom a minister of ripe years and experience is called to a new charge, and how much truth there often is, so far as new fields of work are concerned, in that cruel saying that in the ministry we must draw the dead-line at fifty. One of our ministers who had turned sixty, a forcible preacher with large and valuable experience, being without charge and finding not what he sought, said that he thought he resembled the apostle Paul in "being born out of due time," for, when he was young, congregations desired old men, and, now that he was old, they all desired young men.

Now, certainly, the young men are not to be censured for this. It is not their fault if they are attractive. But, let us ask, what are the reasons for this preference? What is it that congregations find, or expect to find, in young ministers, which they think must be lacking, or at least less richly supplied, in those who have passed middle life? What are some of the features that should make the ministry of young men attractive, and that