

WHAT KIND OF YOUNG MEN ARE NEEDED FOR OUR COLLEGES?

IN seeking to answer this question we must not be understood to reflect, in the least degree, upon the class of students who have passed through our colleges during recent years. In a very large measure they are a credit to the institutions in which they were educated and an honour to the church they are seeking to serve. It is not our character, however, to rest satisfied with the standard of the past. We are living in a time of change and rapid progress. The church of twenty-five years hence will be different from the church of to-day. There is life, activity, a desire for advancement everywhere. The spirit of union is in the air. Never was there, in modern times, such a desire as at present, to realize the fulfilment of our Saviour's prayer, "That they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us." Never was there such an eagerness to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. To meet these new and increasing demands upon the church a ministry of peculiar fitness is required. Nor is it necessary at present to accept every candidate who presents himself. The supply is so ample, and the necessities of the case are such, that a wise selection may, yea must be made.

Our enquiry has reference to the material to be placed in the hands of our professors out of which may be prepared a ministry suited to the requirements of the times.

1. We need young men who are strong, healthy in body. It is true that some, who were in feeble health when they entered college, have grown strong under careful treatment. Others, who have been sufferers throughout life, have done excellent work for the Master. These are very rare exceptions, however. And while we should be slow to reject any earnest young man because not of robust health, it should be understood that to be strong and healthy in body is most important to the student. The course of study prescribed by our church is such that the most robust health is severely taxed in fulfilling its requirements. The active work of the ministry is very laborious. The idea, sometimes met with, that ministers have nothing to do is gradually passing away. In country charges