

writing, for these two reasons—first, that no man can acquire what may properly be called a *style* without writing, and, secondly, because the minister who does not thus store away knowledge becomes, in old age, a drivelling old man.

On Monday, Nov. 27th, Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, delivered an address to the students on the subject of the Practical Side of the Christian Ministry. The substance is given in the following:

Besides the three things—Piety, Scholarship and Pulpit Power—which are necessary for success in the Christian Ministry, there is a fourth, and that is Practical Knowledge in the affairs of every-day life. When this is absent the want of it confronts us on every side. A minister should be able not only to study and preach and pray, but also to adapt himself to the peculiarities and circumstances of individuals. He should learn how to sympathize with, and counsel and comfort men in the different spheres of life, or, in a word, should try to be a man among men.

Of what present use is a physician, however accurate and extensive his learning may be, who cannot bind up the wound of that man bleeding to death there by the roadside? How much more useful that minister of the gospel would be if, when out of the pulpit, he could only apply the remedy to the souls he sees around him suffering from the influence of the world, the flesh and the devil. The instances are too numerous of ministers who are almost useless when dealing with individual cases, although they can analyze the human soul and are acquainted with the laws that govern it and can sway their audience when they preach. But how, you ask, is this experience and skill to be acquired? Each man must get it for himself by bringing his mind into contact with the minds of others, and his heart with the hearts of others. But how can he do this? By mingling with men and conversing with men about their interests, and their joys and their sorrows, and by observing their words and actions and searching out the spirit or motive that prompts such. He will thus get an insight into the human heart—his own included. He should learn to put himself in his brother's place, and he will know how to sympathize with, and counsel and comfort him as a christian minister should. A minister's sympathy with his people and theirs with him form a two-fold bond of great strength.

Theological students often regret that they did not begin their studies sooner. This is a mistake; for it would be far better for their success had they spent some years in contact with men in the more practical spheres of life. The experience and tact thus gained would be of incalculable value all through life. The minister would then know how to sympathize and deal with such men.

The student should also learn to interest himself in the general work of the church throughout the country. He should acquaint himself with all that relates to it and has been the means of exalting it to its present position of usefulness. Why is church work in the hands of the few? Because the many sit on the fence with their hands folded, hardly caring even to look on. Many ministers fail in this respect. There are many congregations, probably, that will not know about the David Morrice Hall for a year or two through their minister's disinterestedness.

Young ministers should not seek for a city charge at first, because it will be too great a strain on mind and body, with its long train of secular affairs connected with it. The best and most profitable place for a young man is a quiet country charge, or else the mission field. The mission field is especially advantageous, because one meets with so many different sorts of people. Here he can have time to study the human heart. Dr. Chalmers spent several years when a young man in a quiet country place in Scotland, where he disciplined his mind by quiet study, and his heart by contact with the humbler members of his parish. He thus fitted himself for the loftier positions he afterward filled. The most useful and successful man in any profession is he who learns to use his knowledge by beginning with the humblest place and working upward and onward.

Above all let your lives be consistent. Let it not be said of you "we lose our minister in the wordly man, when he leaves the pulpit." Be Christ's always and in all circumstances.

### Our Local Note Book.

WE are glad that an effort is being made to organize a Glee Club. Whoever has heard the spontaneous bursts of song that nightly ring through halls and corridors, must admit that it is a step in the right direction. There are many in the College whose musical potencies might be evolved in a way at once appreciable by the public and advantageous to the students themselves.

THE removal of the books into the new Library has been effected. It was a novel sight to see many a curious tome rudely dragged from its recess and hurried away to better quarters. The work was not one of great magnitude. It is more apparent than before that we have only the nucleus of a good library. Every visitor must be struck with the rows of shelves lying blank and inviting something to adorn them. Who will be the first to do something towards filling up the gaping void?

We regret to learn that W. T. Herridge, B.A., is suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis. We trust that he will soon be able to resume work.

W. T. GEMMES has been obliged, through the illness of a relative, to take up his quarters in the city and immerse himself in the cares of business. We hope the latter will not be so pressing as to defeat his intention to take his final examination next spring.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of a fine collection of Christmas and New Year cards, kindly sent to us by the firm of James Campbell & Co., Toronto. They are designed in a pleasing style, representing scenes peculiar to several phases of Canadian life, with appropriate poetical selections.

A. LEE has been appointed to the charge of the Victoria Mission, Forfar Street. He has entered on the work with his usual vigor.

WE are pleased to hear that our old friend H. W. Barber, is carrying on a booming business as a woollen