

show them as the stepping stones by which the Lord of Glory descended from heaven to visit and save our world; or to magnify, it may be, the "crucified One," by telling that he who was "crucified in weakness" did actually, by his powerful word, call them into existence, give them their positions, and assign them their laws. If you speak of their vast number, do not forget to tell your hearers that there is One who counts them all, and calls them all by their names; and that this is the same glorious Being who lifts up the meek, while he casts the wicked down to the ground.

I have already warned you against "anti-christs" in the form of speculations, which are only useful to exhibit the genius or talent of the preacher, or, as presented to us in the form of that which is new and imposing in the worship of God. Let me now set before you that which will better please our Master. History tells us that, just in proportion as the soul of piety died out among the Jewish worshippers at the time of the coming of Christ, there was an increase in the magnificence of the ceremonies connected with their worship. The same remark applies to the first centuries of christianity. It was a people not spiritual, but carnal, who brought into the christian temple those caricatures of the religion of Jesus, and sought to regale men, not with the perfume of the "Rose of Sharon," but with "incense compounded by the apothecary," and who tried to relieve the misery felt by those who had not an interest in Christ by such artificial processes as contain in them an appeal to the sensuous and unspiritual, leaving men all the while under the wrath of God, and destitute of the peace which flows from faith in Christ. Now, be assured that the evils of the present day have just the same origin. With Christ in our hearts,—Christ dwelling richly in his people,—Christ going forth from sabbath to sabbath in the chariot of salvation, there will be interest enough. And if there be any who are not pleased with this, you will never charm them into the kingdom, though you had music, sweet and enchanting as that of the fabled Orpheus or the irresistible Syrens. "They

are like the deaf adder which steppeth her ear, which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely."

Let us combine our labours with prayer, more abundantly. Let us also accustom ourselves to look for the fruit. We should preach and pray under a constant sense of the important truth that God is just as able now to give the word immediate effect, in the conversion of sinners, as he was on the day of Pentecost; and with this farther conviction, that the sinner out of Christ is just as much in danger now as were those whom the apostles warned to repent and turn immediately to Christ as the only course of safety. *Immediate submission* to God, by repentance and faith, ought to be impressed upon our hearers. No man feels as he needs to feel while he only thinks of his duty as something to be done at a future time. In the language of Scripture we should cry to our people, "Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation." "To-day if ye will hear his voice harden not your hearts."

#### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERINTENDENCE FOR THE YEAR 1865-6.

While the Board of Superintendence of the Theological Hall have not ceased to watch over the interests of the institution committed by Synod to their supervision, they have yet little to report.

From the annual reports of the Professors, which are herewith laid on your table, it will appear that last session the students numbered in all 16, while in the previous year there were 20.

Of the 16, 10 have now completed their course of study, and have entered, or are about to enter, on the active duties of the church—some as settled pastors, others as probationers. Of the 6 remaining students two have completed their second year of study and 4 their first.

The Board cannot here avoid calling the special attention of the Synod to the certainty of a very scanty supply of probationers for the next two years—a supply not at all adequate to the extensive and growing requirements of the church.

The Board would record, with thankfulness to the great Head of the church, that during the past session the Professors and Students have enjoyed a large measure of health; and that they have been enabled to traverse together a wide and interesting