

Room instead of being a great publishing house, has only an occasional book issuing from its presses, and our supply has to be obtained from publishers in other countries. Victoria College, so popular as a seat of learning, yet so pressed in its finances year after year, as to be forced to extort from an unwilling Government its miserable bounty, when our own ability is sufficiently ample for its vigorous working.

Years ago our vocation was to instruct from the pulpit, and in the domestic circle, these were the only mediums we had, there were few readers and fewer books; but in the providence of God a race of preachers were then thrust into his vineyard of great natural ability, and some of great pulpit powers, and with as much literary knowledge as raised them above the masses, and well they acted their part, and boundless was the confidence and gratitude of those to whom they ministered.

Our duty, in this day, is to supply the wants of the people as they now exist. Many of them have availed themselves of the literary institutions of the country in the education of their sons and daughters, so that we shall have, far sooner than we can hope to be prepared for the duty, further to instruct and guide in religious matters as intelligent a community as is to be found in any country. In fact we have them now in every congregation where we minister, who are capable of appreciating what is pure and valuable in book or pulpit, and who are no way backward in detecting error in speech, in metaphor, or in doctrine. They have their tastes—what pleases or displeases—what is palatable or disagreeable. Depend upon it, if we desire to retain our influence, we must ascend to them, and above them, as they will not come down to us. Nor is it desirable that they should, and our teachings, whilst under ever varying circumstances, though always cast in the mould of truth, having its force and inspiration, should be presented in an inviting and not in a repulsive manner. All our people may not have a refined and literary taste, but some such are found every where, and it is well known what an influence one or two may exert in a congregation. We hold that there is nothing, save corrupt morals, so fatal to a Minister's influence as ignorance—in him of all other men, in this age, it is most inexcusable. He may preach a few admirable sermons, but preaching is only a portion of his work. He is placed constantly in circumstances of association and contact, where in order to maintain his position and influence must show himself the well read man, with his mind stored with general and useful knowledge.