

answer. Do they not stand well nigh unparalleled in the history of the world's heroic achievements?

Then the argument rises to the rank of the *a fortiori*, when we remember that these men are, for the most part, men of the world, bearing no mark or profession of Christian experience. If these are neither weakened nor dishonored by beneficiary education, how much less will men of faith and grace be unmanned or undermined by the enjoyment of similar advantages? Surely the governments of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light.

But what answer can we gather from the experience of the church on this subject? It is favorable beyond dispute. The Secretary of the Evangelical Educational Society of the Episcopal Church, after visiting the various colleges and seminaries in which their beneficiaries were pursuing their studies, and after conversations with the professors and intercourse with the students themselves says:

"Received most gratifying impressions of their piety, ability, proficiency and general fitness for the holy office which they seek to enter. In a large number of cases our students have won the honors of their respective Institutions. The reports from their instructors are most satisfactory and encouraging.

"The President of one Institution said: 'A large proportion of your students here are first-class men; two of them I would like to retain in the Institution as adjunct professors.' The Dean of another faculty said: 'I have never seen so many able men in so small a company.' The President of another college said: 'Your men are among our very best students. I do not stand in doubt of one of them.' The President of a fourth Institution said: 'Your little band here are all choice men.'

"Ex-President Woolsey (formerly of Yale College) gives the following facts in his experience, embracing a period of thirty years, concerning the American Education Society, showing the character of the men who are generally prepared for the ministry by well conducted general education societies: 'This Society has aided 249 Divinity students in this Institution. Had they been simply average scholars, there ought to have been only 83 honor men among them; but, there were actually 157 honor men.'"

The same faithful Secretary sent letters of inquiry to each of the Bishops in whose dioceses were laborers who had received the Society's aid. The following are some of the replies received. Bishop Pad-dock (of Mass.) writes:

"All are true and loyal men. . . . I do not know a man among them whose personal piety and consecration a man among us would think of questioning."

Bishop Clark (R. I.) says:

"They are regarded by us all as men of the highest ability, and they all have been most active and useful laborers here. They have exercised their ministry to the glory of God and the edification of His church."

Bishop Pinkney (of Md.) writes:

"All of them stand high in the list of clergy. . . . They are presby-ters of whom any diocese might be proud."