

course of misguided ambition. The proper attitude of the candidate for the ministry, is, that he should be prepared to endure all hardship, as a good soldier of Christ, and to submit to any privations rather than not preach the gospel. But then, his Christian brethren should not be willing that he should bear all the burden of a common service; and, as a mere question of economy of resources, it is desirable for you that his time should not be occupied, and that his thoughts should not be distracted from his studies by care for a subsistence.

RELIGIOUS CHARACTER—THE BIBLE.

I have entered so far into particulars in this address, not because I desire to exercise any influence or authority in the ultimate adjustment of your mode of operation, but because, the movement being a novel one in Canada, I am anxious that you should have your thoughts directed to the length and breadth of the enterprise, that you may see the importance of the objects to be attained, and anticipate the amount of earnest and sustained effort that will be demanded on your part, in order to their attainment. It would have been more agreeable to me to have dealt with the higher and more spiritual aspects of the subject; but the consideration of these every-day details seem, at this juncture, more needful for you.

We must not, however, lose sight of the higher bearings of the subject. An efficient organization, adequate machinery, thorough business management, and judicious policy, are indeed important; and if in any enterprise we need the wisdom of the serpent, and the most mature fruits of talent and experience, it is in such undertakings as these. But how vain will all human policy prove, if not moved by the Spirit of God, governed by the wisdom which is from above, and crowned by the blessing which alone maketh rich. I can conceive of no greater calamity than denominational Institutions standing in the wisdom of man, and controlled by cold, calculating men, whose councils differ, only in the nature of the interest discussed, from the negotiations of the counting-house, or the deliberations of a worldly corporation. Such ungodly dealing with the things of God, will necessarily be followed by a blight on the souls of those who engage in it, which will gradually extend over the whole sphere of their operations.

Were it our object to build up the Baptist denomination as a well compacted and influential corporation, and to secure a party triumph, the cool tact and talent of such managers would be invaluable; but since our object is spiritual and heavenly, we need rather the graces of the Spirit, love, faith, prayer, and devotedness. My chief object in this address, is to point you to the true object of our undertaking, with a single eye to God's glory, and in a spiritual frame.

If my years may stand as my apology, I, who am an elder, exhort you individually and in your churches, "desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby." I have spoken of the Bible as *the* text-book in our school, but it is not to be regarded as merely the foundation of Theology for the student and preacher—it is the aliment of spiritual life for all; and the churches cannot be in health if they are content to take it at second hand from their teacher. You must all be taught of God.

One manifest defect of this age of abundant profession, is the lack of scriptural knowledge. In Theological education, the Bible is superseded by systems.