

community. So far as regarded every young man in our churches, whose piety and talents might have peculiarly marked him out for future usefulness in the Christian ministry, he would in all human probability have been driven out of the Province for an education, and never have returned. The influential professions requiring a more complete course of education, would have been almost wholly supplied by other Denominations, while the Baptists must have been content to become "Hewers of wood and Drawers of water." But we have reason to bless God that he has marked out for us a more honorable and useful path. His favor has been signally manifested towards us in the course on which we have entered, and he has prospered the honest and single-hearted motives with which the Fathers and friends of the Baptist community commenced their Institutions, and with which, notwithstanding all the mixture of evil that is incident to all human undertakings, they have been carried forward to their present advanced position. The clouds that have so often darkened our path have been dispersed, and the prospect is bright and cheering. We may now look forward to the moral and religious education of our children under the care of Teachers of our own choice, not imposed on us by those who might be wholly indifferent to our interests or possibly might hate or despise us.

The great duty of the Society at this moment is to press forward with renewed zeal and vigour in support of objects so closely connected with the future prosperity and influence of the Baptists in these Provinces; and as they have experienced so much of the goodness of God in times past, so may they trust for the future that we will not forsake them. Let union of purpose and effort, as heretofore, be the watchword of our ranks, and above all other means of ensuring success, let the growth of our Institutions of learning be built on the spirituality and devotedness of our churches; let our increase in intellectual gifts be only surpassed by the prayerfulness and humility of our people, and our zeal for learning, by our zeal for God.

Thus future generations will rejoice in the works of our hands, and children's children will have occasion to bless God, that while they have been drinking from the streams of human learning and knowledge, they were also taught at our Seminaries, by precept and example, the far greater value of the waters of life. Thus also will our rising ministry, under a healthful and holy influence, be blessed more abundantly with the means of attaining every useful acquirement which the growing state of society so loudly demands, and while in preparation for the contest with the kingdom of darkness and error, daily and hourly coming into more close and deadly combat with Gospel truth, be enabled, in addition to their chief—their spiritual fitness for the great work before them, to draw from the sources of ancient and modern wisdom, attainments which shall qualify them to "meet their enemies in the gate."

April, 1845.