

lating preachers to-day are those who look upon the Bible as its own best commentary. It is an inexhaustible mine of thought and suggestion, but it will only yield up its treasures to the diligent worker. The chief benefit to a candidate for the ministry of a college course in arts, as well as in theology, lies in the mental training. In college a man doesn't learn to be a preacher, but he learns to be a student. A curriculum extending over seven years seems long at the beginning, but in after years it often seems all too short. A considerable time ago the Irish Presbyterian Church decided not to license any man to preach, who did not possess a University degree in Arts. Many people at the time thought this an unwise move, and prophesied that it would result in an insufficient supply of preachers. Instead, the result has justified the wisdom and foresight of the Assembly, and to-day no church in the world is served by a more efficient body of ministers than the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Having once learned to study, the minister should keep it up. He should never lose sight of the fact mentioned in the early part of this paper that his chief business is to preach. Dr. Stalker, of Glasgow, tells us that his father, an old Scottish elder, gave him this advice when he was about entering on the work of the ministry: "James, whatever else you do, always be prepared for the pulpit on the Lord's Day," and to his strict adherence to this advice, he attributes in large measure his success as a preacher.

It may be asked, What should the minister preach? There is only one reply possible, Preach the Gospel, the simple Gospel of the grace of God through Jesus Christ, and preach it in the best and most effective way you can. You know not what issues for some of your hearers may be dependent on the manner in which you present this glorious Gospel every time you enter the pulpit. Remember always the words of the Apostle: "I charge thee, therefore, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead, at His appearing and His kingdom, preach the Word, be instant, in season, and out of season."