

torical and critical circles. This criticism will go on. It will continue its thorough-going course. For the church dogmatically to stop this spirit of enquiry would mean at least to weaken the pulse of her life. We can contemplate this critical movement without the slightest fear of the ultimate results. Out of it there will ultimately come a more intelligent grasp of and regard for the sacred scriptures. Now, if our church is to keep abreast of these times of growing intellectual activity and her ministry be in a position to guide and control, they must know something of the critical problems that are agitating the age, and have a somewhat intelligent grasp of the modern methods of historical criticism, as they relate to the books and facts of Revelation. Of course no one expects that such questions should be frequently dealt with in the pulpit—in some places, never. The grand problems of sin and salvation, temptation and righteousness, struggle and victory, duty and destiny, must always constitute the staple themes of the pulpit. But even should critical questions never be discussed in the sanctuary, for his own benefit, or for the sake of the few whom the minister is continually encountering, who are interested in such matters, he should be prepared to view them with a masculine intelligence. Few things can be more serious to the Church of Christ than that any large number of its ministers should be found occupying a lower place in intelligence than any considerable number of their people. The Church must keep itself up with the strong intelligence that is throbbing about it. And so our ministers cannot afford to be ignorant of the great critical questions that are agitating the Church.

3. But our strongest reason in favor of the Exegetical Chair is, that through it our students are more likely to receive fuller qualifications for their life-work than from any Practical Chair. Preaching always has occupied, and I trust always will occupy, the first place in the public services of the Presbyterian Church. It is the secret of her robust and manly Christianity. If she become weak in her pulpit, her strength must dwindle. We need not disparage other agencies or other parts of public services. But as put by another, "these all wait upon preaching. This is the king's daughter, all glorious within and without. The rest are 'the virgins—her companions that follow her.'" If, then,