

departments of study, theology included. It is also an undoubted fact that the great mass of earnest and studious people look with suspicion upon advanced thought, especially in theology. It was proposed recently to ask Professors Briggs and McGiffert to give a series of public lectures on Higher Criticism, in New York City. In order to test public sentiment, hundreds of invitations were sent out; but the responses were so few and the protests were so many that the enterprise was abandoned. Is it not possible then, that instead of the seminaries being behind the times, certain great scholars and educators are in advance of the times?

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I presume that even Dr. Harper, with the resources of Chicago University behind him, might find it easier to discover defects in the Theological Curriculum, than to improve it; to pull down than to rebuild.

Still, that there are improvements possible in lines indicated by the Dr. I have no doubt. Indeed, he has expressed sentiments that I have held from my college days. I have always thought that a minister might reach a higher plane could he pursue studies more suited to him. Thus, while encouraging young men who are preparing for the ministry, to take the prescribed course if possible, as the best available for them, yet I have ever felt that, for some at least, a better might be possible. That many succeed without a Theological course, and others fail with it, though proving nothing, suggests.

My early dream of the Bible in the Theological school has been somewhat realized; and yet I question if it will not be more prominent still before the curriculum is perfected. Those who accept its verbal inspiration, (I cannot see such use of it for those who do not,) cannot be too conversant with its originals, as the way to its quick.

If Christ be the model minister, and the conspicuous elements of his preaching were, 1st, Knowledge of God and His Word; 2nd, Of man and his needs; 3rd, Of facts and things that best elucidated and impressed the Word, it seems to me that, centering in, and circling round that Word, should be such