

ary and scientific preparation are just as good and abundant. Our Provincial University for example, is far ahead of most of the colleges which form their sources of supply. Why then are we so far behind and content so to be, with a small and but slowly increasing faculty, whose strength in individual excellence cannot compensate for its limited opportunities; with a contracted curriculum; with a library that needs ten-fold its present rate of development to bring it within sight of the average collections of the seminaries to the south of us; with an endowment that is kept so lamentably small even in its most sanguinely anticipated increase? No doubt it is easy enough to point to historical causes, and to say that the several colleges of the Church are there already, and that each one is working its own district for what it is worth. But the answer is not sufficient. Ontario is not worked for what it is worth, or rather for what it would be worth if the standard of theological education were, and were always growing, higher. It is surely not an error to hold the irrepressible conflict and attrition, and the reciprocal weakening and damage of the two incompatible systems united in the management of Knox College, mainly responsible for the repression of her inner spirit and her failure to fulfil in due measure her rightful destiny.

Another and very serious consequence of the present system must be mentioned by the way. Allusion has been made to the growth of the secular colleges in Ontario and their perpetual endeavor to reach a higher standard. The theological college or colleges that fail to respond to the implicit demands from below will lose many of their best students. Loyalty to our country or our Church, or to our section of the Church, or social advantages or entanglements, or the fact that the course at Knox admits of sufficient leisure to permit a student to do much outside work of one sort or another, any or all of these reasons along with some special advantages in the course in spite of its drawbacks, may act as deterrents in the case of many students; but many others will feel compelled to spend their years of special training for life work in other institutions where they can obtain the advantages denied them here through no fault of their own.

Not a word has been said by myself or can be rightly said by anybody against an abridged course of training for legitimate