

direction. And what shall we say of the young ladies?—well we hope they will not oppose the movement too strenuously.

FOR some time there has been a growing sentiment among our denomination in favor of founding a chair in theology at Acadia. To some a single chair would be satisfactory. To others, while for the present willing to accept one chair, yet for the future nothing short of a fully equipped Baptist Theological Seminary would meet their views. These are not troubled without cause. Acadia was founded primarily for the purpose of giving to the Baptists of the Maritimes an educated ministry. This conception of its meaning and mission, however, soon widened until it took in the idea of raising the standard of education in the country at large, and in particular of making the Baptists an educated body. This thought contributed much to the progress and development of the arts school, while the theological department, through a series of spasmodic contractions and expansions, gradually but surely died. Following this, Acadia at once passed into the first rank of maritime arts colleges, which place, in spite of unparalleled discouragements, she has held ever since. On the death of our highly esteemed special theological course, our ministerial graduates, desiring further training of a technical and special character, were of necessity forced to go abroad. But where? Many among the hopeful and patriotic supporters of the college were of the opinion that McMaster Hall would answer the purpose and produce for us a class of Canadian pastors educated in and for Canada. But experience has proven these hopes to have been based upon inadequate grounds, the majority of our men, for numerous and various reasons, preferring to go to Newton for their theology.

Of late there has been a dearth of ministers in our denomination. The friends of the college say, and with justice, that our young men, after reaping the benefits of the arts course at Acadia, go to the States, receive a theological training, and then remain there. A remedy for the evil is sought, which searching has produced the growing sentiment mentioned above in regard to theology at Acadia.

As a result of all this, the Governors, in their June meetings, decided to appoint an assistant to the

professor of English Literature, so as to provide intending theological students with technical instruction equivalent to the work of one man.

Now, in view of this action, several questions demand satisfactory answers.

How is the study of theology to be taken up? It must either form a course by itself, or be made a part of the regular arts curriculum, or be introduced as an *Honor course*. The last of these three alternatives we hold, for good and sufficient reasons, to be the only way in which such studies could be introduced at present so as to prove an advantage.

If intending ministerial students enter Acadia as full matriculates in arts, and pursue their studies for the purpose of obtaining a B. A. degree, they will have no time sufficient to receive this extra instruction, "amounting to the work of one man," provided for them in theology. The present arts course is intended to, and does, demand of the average student his whole time and energies. For such, therefore, the time spent on theology *must be taken from arts*. It, therefore, follows that unless a number of the required studies in arts, as well as all the studies in theology, are made elective, as far as full matriculates are concerned, at least, no practical advantage has been gained by the late action of the Governors.

Several dangers attend the establishment of a single chair in theology at Acadia.

All students are now required to take a comprehensive and thorough course before receiving their degree. Now, unless the subjects taught by the theological professor be incorporated into the regular arts curriculum, or placed among the electives, many men who purpose entering the ministry will be sorely tempted to drop enough of the prescribed course in arts to allow them to take the full benefit of the theological work done by one professor. This at once places them among the "general" students, and consequently at the end of a four years' course such men would have a little theology, an imperfect and unsatisfactory mental training because of their neglect of those studies in the arts course intended to give mental drill, and *no degree*. Then, as history abundantly and mournfully testifies, your average man would probably yield to pressure, and after "marrying" would settle for life. A generation of such, and a poorly educated and half-trained ministry would be the inevitable result, the very thing, to prevent which the Fathers founded the college.