

pour upon us volley after volley from weapons forged by the skill and directed by the malignity of an atheistical philosophy, shall we not, resorting to the armory of Heaven, seek to defend the cause of truth against error, by taking unto ourselves "the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

That there are obstacles to the thorough training of youth in Canada few will deny who have given the subject any consideration. Our school system is one of these. Let us flatter ourselves as we may on the condition of our common schools, any one who has made himself acquainted with the system will be forced to admit that the one in existence here is very far indeed from being perfect. The teachers have no encouragement to devote themselves to the study necessary to impart knowledge efficiently. The very term made use of to describe their engagement shows the false position in which they are placed. "Hiring" a teacher for a few months, and then, almost as a rule, dismissing him, is the regular practice. How then can our boys be expected to acquire education systematically, or to be instructed properly. However competent the teacher may be, and however apt the pupils, to neither is there a fair chance given; and hence arises a fitful, hap-hazard bringing up, not training, whose tendency is altogether opposed to those habits of steady industry so essential to the success of a student. Then again, a great number of Canadian students for the ministry come from the country districts, where during a considerable part of the year, and at the very time they ought to be in school, young men and boys are kept at home to assist in the labours of the farm. This, of course, breaks in upon their studies; for that boy must be a rare enthusiast who, after working "from early morn till dewy eve," following the plough or swinging the scythe, can sit down to con over lessons which he is not expected to learn. Besides, there is not, generally speaking, a love of learning for its own sake; there does not prevail the old-fashioned Scotch feeling of respect for the sacred office, and of ambition on the part of the fathers and mothers of those in the humbler walks of life to see their sons in the pulpit, which has led to so many sacrifices being made to help on the youthful student. There are no libraries easily accessible to those who are desirous to follow a profession; and we have not, as a people, arrived at that stage in

which a collection of works of general literature, not to speak of a higher class of reading, is considered a necessary part of every man's household. The consequence of these and other circumstances which we need not particularise, is, that a very large number of the students who apply for admission to our various colleges, are fitter for entering a preparatory school than for beginning a collegiate course. Their whole education is therefore crowded into the few years they pass at college. They have little general knowledge, a very scanty knowledge of men and manners, and they leave college with perhaps a tolerable acquaintance with classics and theology, but having much to learn of human nature. Theology and classics are not education; they are only a part of it. Pulpit ministrations are not the only nor the most effective weapons for converting souls. The celebrated Edward Irving conciliated and finally won over a furious infidel shoemaker, by exhibiting to him his knowledge of leather. After leaving college, imperfectly prepared for the real work of the ministry, what chance has a young man, once entered upon the duties of a scattered charge, of acquiring a knowledge of subjects not immediately connected with his present work, and yet exercising a direct influence upon it. For if science be used as a weapon of offence by infidels, can the minister of the Gospel neglect its study? If geology, tracing on the rocks the history of by-gone ages, gives for a time its support to the wild theories of atheists as to the origin of the world, can we close our eyes to the facts thus revealed, and so leave to the opponents of divine revelation a weapon which has been so triumphantly turned against themselves? If there are those who impugn the authority of God's Word on the supposed evidence against its statements of ancient history, can we with safety be ignorant of the discoveries made by explorers in the ancient tombs of Nineveh, Babylon, and Egypt? In a word, shall men enter upon the office of the Christian ministry totally unprepared to meet the specious arguments of those who are ever active and untiring in endeavouring to sap the very foundations of man's belief in the existence of our Father in Heaven?

What position does our Church occupy? Even those who differ from her most widely acknowledge that her ministers, as a body, are worthy of all esteem, that her courts are conducted with dignity, and their deliberations marked by order and decorum.