

Scriptures, saying, "He which soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully, shall also reap bountifully." 2 Cor. ix. 6.

M. S.

Theological Colleges.

The seminaries where the ministers of the church are prepared for their work, possess an interest exceeding the limits of denominational coteries, and extending throughout the length and breadth of every church. No religious body of any consideration has ever attempted to carry on its work without their aid. They have ever been viewed as of the highest importance. If primitive Christianity carried on its mighty enterprise without them, as without many aids that were introduced afterwards, no long period elapsed ere flourishing schools of Christian learning sprang into life in the early centuries—as at Antioch and Alexandria. The most successful was also the most learned of the apostles: and the vast library of the fathers proves anything but the uselessness or insignificance of sacred learning. John Knox prescribes, in the first Book of Discipline, as follows: "We think it necessary there be three universities in this whole realm, established in the three towns accustomed. The first in St. Andrews, the second in Glasgow, and the third in Aberdeen." These all included Divinity Schools. The university of Edinburgh was not founded till 1582. Considering the population of Scotland at that time, this was a very liberal provision. America has not been remiss in following the example of older countries, and it would be interesting to ascertain upon reliable authority the whole amount that has been given by private benevolence to American colleges during the last ten years. Scarcely a week passes but an announcement appears of benefactions of most colossal amount being bestowed by patriotic citizens upon such institutions. In this, American citizens so far surpass us, that many of their colleges are most largely endowed, and the fountains of benevolence continue to flow with increasing copiousness. Theology has largely shared in a munificence which gives a clear

indication of wisdom, patriotism and love of gospel truth. For the Americans are practical people, and, while many are earnest Christians, they are also enthusiastic lovers of their country, and feel that in our age it cannot be great and influential without large and well appointed seminaries of all learning, and specially of religious science. Another century shall not have passed, ere Oxfords and Cambridges, not a few, shall send forth streams of thought through the enlightened masses of this new and wonderful continent—the abode of all nations.

The establishment and success of theological colleges is attended with peculiar difficulties. They can draw their support from certain sections of the community, and they are exposed to the manœuvres of party in church courts and denominations. That this has been the case with Presbyterian halls in British North America, is not likely to be denied. And it is unfortunate that peace and harmony should not reign just where they ought to have their seat, and that the fountains whence all are to drink should be muddled by contests among "the herdmen." Thus, wells dug by the fathers have been almost closed, and the opening of new ones has been received with coldness and opposition.

All, however, will acknowledge the paramount importance of good theological schools. Have we such in British North America? Undoubtedly we have useful halls that have benefited the churches. But several conditions are indispensable to the prosperity and influence of any theological seminary on this continent; such as the ability and learning of the professors; a fair average reputation pertaining to them and the college; an adequate staff in point of number, that is, a professor for each well-defined department of theological inquiry; (without even thinking of the immense number and departments of professors in some German universities) a sufficient endowment; a liberal bursary provision, and a large attendance.

As to these elements of success, learning and reputation are the growth of good management, liberal inducements and time. As to the number of professors, it will be conceded that, when.