

course and we will get our theological training in the pastorate, so that in the coming years men will doubtless be found by the way-side, who might, with due preparation, have run successfully to the end.

The power of theological schools for good has been great. From the very early ages we have records of their workings in the advancement of civilization.

If we please to consider the "schools of the prophets" theological schools their history may be traced back many centuries before the Christian era, but not until the fourth century after Christ did they take their most prominent place.

From this time until the Council of Chalcedon in the fifth century, very great was their influence and wide its extent. True, the number of schools was small, but the men who taught in them were mighty, and gave an impulse to free inquiry such as the world had not before known, and one of the darkest pages of history is that which records the decline of this spirit and the arrest by hierarchical aggressions, narrow-minded Monasticism and political troubles, of every liberal and scientific movement.

Passing out of the light shed upon it by Chrysostom, Athanasius, Augustine and Jerome the world plunged again into gross darkness and superstition, there to remain for centuries. For, although so-called theologians were actively engaged, it was not until about the close of the eleventh century that they succeeded in bursting in sunder the bonds which bound them and pressing on after new truth. And wonderful indeed was the development which took place from that time forward. Universities sprang up independent of both church and state. The spirit of free inquiry was abroad in the land once more and brooked no subjection. Students flocked from all quarters, and in many instances remained, not for the short space of three years but for seven and even ten. It is said that the numbers reached from fifteen to thirty thousand at some of the more prominent schools. The names of Duns Scotus, Bonaventura and Roger Bacon will ever shed an effulgent glow over the thirteenth century, and set the seal of true worth upon Scholasticism, notwithstanding the severe criticism which it has received from the pens of modern writers, and its acknowledged perniciousness in some regards. Evils there doubtless were connected with these great medieval schools, but they are not to be compared with the advantages resulting therefrom. The impulse given to free inquiry