

or even doubt the articles of his creed as bearing full upon them the sulphurous breath of their unholy inspirer. Such a man cannot be a teacher of truth for he neither knows nor seeks to know it. One readily recalls in this connection lines of Milton treating of the same theme.

"Their lean and flashy songs

Grate on their scannel pipes of wretched straw ;

The hungry sheep look up and are not fed."

To listen to the same commonplaces week after week, year after year : to be deafened by the mighty vociferations of the misguided preacher who mistakes noise for eloquence : to hear mere assumptions instead of lucid argument, cherished dogmas instead of well-founded convictions, incitements to narrowness and bigotry instead of encouragement toward honest and thorough investigation, and all from one whose sacred calling has invested him with undeserved veneration, are not these strong forces tending men toward that type which is,

"Dead to rapture and despair

A thing that grieves not and that never hopes,

Stolid and stunned, a brother to the ox."

An abiding and invariable characteristic of these men is their unteachableness. Their deplorable incompetency is at the same time the exponent of cardinal weaknesses in character, indolence and self-sufficiency which led them to despise and neglect opportunities for mental equipment. He who enters the ministry today without adequate preparations does this from choice, and is absolutely without excuse. He who enters upon his course and after a little deliberately switches off on a short cut is no less reprehensible and even more hopeless than he who will not seek the help of the schools. Yet more to be censured and far greater nuisances as preachers are those, sometimes found in schools, who posing as ministerial students are no students at all but loving only the degree are utterly failing rightly to employ either their own powers or the college gifts. One may perhaps be tolerated who ~~invites~~ ^{urites} indolence and unfaithfulness with open denial of moral and social obligations, but one who seeks to hide these hideous blemishes in character behind a cloak of religiosity deserves the execrations of every honest man.

There is no more urgent need in the Christian church of today than the need of earnest, devoted preachers and pastors. To discharge the duties of the ministry is the noblest work God has permitted man to do for fellow man. But because the calling is so high with so far-reaching influences there is greater need that the entrance thereto be safely guarded. It is not contended that the would be preacher must be a College and Seminary graduate, but only that he be *educated*. If College and Seminary afford the best means of edu-