

of truth and even our interpretation of Scripture. It is with great reluctance that we abandon the views impressed upon us in the formative periods of life. Teachers of marked individuality and strong convictions usually leave a permanent mark on their students. The world at large forgets this ; not a few teachers themselves forget it, and therefore fail to realize their responsibility in this respect. The subjects taught, the spirit and earnestness of the teacher, the views expressed on vital questions, the method of instruction and the resultant effect of the course of study pursued are matters of vital moment. Contemplated from any point of view, the importance of this subject grows on the thoughtful mind. Indeed, it would be well-nigh impossible to over-estimate it. So intimate is the relation between the Course of Study in our Theological Colleges and the character, ability and equipment of the ministry, that the matter is of vast moment to the Church and to the world.

A certain lord at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association in this city vouchsafed the opinion that the work of the physician in the relief of human suffering is the noblest in which man can engage. Lords, like other people, have the undoubted right to entertain and express any harmless opinions that they choose, but I take the liberty of affirming that the work of the ministry is the only thing which shall be permanent. We value the medical and other physical sciences ; we would not detract from the glorification which they received last summer in Toronto and Montreal. But nobody will pretend that their sphere of operation extends beyond this "life of mortal breath." The physician stands helpless in the presence of the stroke of death ; while the other sciences, in their practical bearings, extend not beyond the tomb. So is it with other human things. The only thing that will never perish is the fruit of the Christian ministry. On everything else the hand of death and decay is passing. Our warehouses and mansions will all fall to ruin. Our schemes of honor and wealth will come to an end. The very cities and towns where