

a doubt that it is but reasonable to expect that not fewer than *Five Hundred* members of the Society ought to be enrolled, upon payment of the annual subscription, who as a permanent body would take a deep interest in the Institutions, and whose contributions, with other resources, would place their support on an unshaken basis, and beyond the fear of difficulty or danger. The establishment of such a fund would not at all interfere with the free action of the churches as it respects the *Union Society*, or other means to which it might be occasionally necessary to have resort.

The Executive Committee feel that they have the strongest grounds to congratulate the Education Society, and the Baptist Denomination at large, on the present position, the character, and the efficiency of the Seminary. The Society may now be permitted reasonably to hope that their Institutions are at length established upon a firm and lasting basis, and that, firmly rooted, as the Committee feel confident they are, in the affections of a numerous, persevering and active portion of the community, they may after so many and severe struggles as they have had to encounter, quietly proceed to accomplish the useful and important ends for which they were originally founded. The Baptists have assuredly had to combat great and serious difficulties in effecting their purposes, and as they have brought to their accomplishment no ordinary share of zeal and determination, as well as of liberality, it is no small gratification to know that they have so signally and effectually succeeded. The elements of future success may be very briefly stated as depending on the continuance of the same spirit of liberality, and the same perseverance and energy, which have from the commencement so strongly characterized our Body. But in addition to this there will hereafter be especially needed a strict and rigid regard to economy in the application of our resources by the Executive Committee. *Past Experience* affords grounds for the strongest reliance on the Denomination and the friends of Education as to the performance of their parts, and the same infallible teacher must direct the Committee for the time to come.

Few it is believed would have anticipated, a few years since, our present strong and influential position as regards the share we are hereafter to take in the Education of the country. We may fairly test its importance by contemplating what it would now have been had we either never made the attempt to help ourselves, or not have succeeded in it. What, either at home or abroad, in a political, moral, or religious point of view, would have been the situation of a Denomination, composing one fifth of the population of the Province had they stood aloof and allowed their more active neighbours to have entered the field without competition? Can it be doubted that they must, at least for an indefinite period to come, have submitted to have the education of their own children taken out of their hands, or contented themselves with remaining in ignorance, and in respect to all intellectual improvement or influence—at the very foot of the