

of theological study? It is not possible that in the minds of too many aspirants to the ministry there is a conception quite too low as to what theological culture and effective ministerial work involve? As the bible is the book of books, so is theology the science of sciences. In the nature of things no department of learning is comparable, for depth, and richness, and importance, with the department of biblical learning. In the nature of things also the work of the minister is difficult, delicate, and important in the highest degree. Moreover, where, in a busy pastorate, can the time be found for even a casual survey of all those broad fields which I have sketched? He would be a diligent man indeed who, in fifteen years, could reserve enough time from his pastoral duties to cover the ground of the three years work of the Seminary, to say nothing of his having to do the work alone, unhelped by the guidance of competent teachers, and the fine stimulus of the lecture room. How much better must it be to have surveyed the ground at the start, to know the range and relations of things, to have laid to heart a thousand wise counsels touching one's work on every side, to be able at the beginning of one's life-work to move forward with the assurance begotten of the wider view and fuller discipline, and to be able to devote whatever time can be taken from the immediate duties of one's pastorate, not to acquiring the elements of theological learning, but to pressing on from the vantage point already gained.

That there are arts graduates who, without theology, have become, not only very successful pastors, but also men of broad theological culture, is unquestionably true. But this does not say that they did not start with heavy disadvantages, and that they have not had to work with life-long resoluteness to make up for these disadvantages. There are, indeed, successful and learned men in the ministry who never had either a theological or an arts course. But how many of these latter would advise a young man not to go to college at all? And how many of the former, if they have been in the ministry for any length of time, would counsel their own sons to follow their example. The importance in our own day, of a course of theological study as a preparation for the work of the ministry can hardly be overstated.

So strong are the writer's convictions on this point that if, through age, or other insurmountable obstacles, a student should find himself unable to plan for more than four years at college after matriculation, he would unhesitatingly recommend that such a student give two years out of the four