

tentions are unknown, all may be taught that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." It has been well observed, that "it is our educated young men who will give the tone to society, and control the destiny of the generation in which they live." How desirable, nay, even necessary, it is, that the education they receive, while truly liberal in its plans and provisions, should be connected with that moral conservatism without which the advantages of knowledge itself may prove comparatively valueless!

This brings me to the consideration of the Theological Department of this Institution. I trust it will not be undervalued. Cheerfully acknowledging the indebtedness of the Churches of these provinces to those venerable servants of God, who, amid difficulties that would have appalled most men, introduced evangelical religion, in connection with the Baptist Denomination, and laid the foundations, broad and deep, of a magnificent spiritual building, I am unquestionably warranted in affirming that the ministry of the present day, to be successful, must possess qualifications superadded to those by which their fathers were distinguished, and specially adapted to fit them for existing duties and conflicts. The advancement of society requires a corresponding advancement in the standing of its religious teachers. The discussions and controversies of the present period cannot be successfully engaged in without previous training, by which the student may gain an acquaintance with the history of principles and events, and acquire the habit of just discrimination. A recent writer has said, that "Clerical ignorance is the sure precursor of public corruption." Without affirming or denying the truth of the observation, in its full meaning, I may remark, that as the influence of the christian ministry on society is necessarily powerful, it