

5. *A measure of acquaintance with Church law and policy.* It is surely not enough that young men, in preparation for the ministerial office, hear a few lectures on the principles of Church Government, with a sketch of the argument held by Presbyterians against diocesan Episcopacy, and congregational Independency. As a general rule, our students in Canada, so soon as their College course is completed, pass very rapidly through the intermediate state of probationers, are ordained as pastors, and take their seats in Session, Presbytery, and Synod. How many of them, when they assume their seats, have any sufficient knowledge of law and polity? We do not wish to judge our brethren; but we are sure that many of the younger ministers in Canada have found themselves called on to decide questions of ecclesiastical right and policy, with a most slender knowledge of principles and precedents in the case. It is no answer to say, that the senior ministers, educated in Scotland and Ireland, never received the training which we desiderate. We write in favour of "reform and progress." Our wish is to see the rising race of ministers equipped with sufficient knowledge for the proper discharge of their duties as rulers and administrators in the house of Christ. We therefore suggest, that they should be informed of the course of Church legislation in our own and other ecclesiastical communities, and especially be carefully instructed in the teaching of Scripture respecting the office-bearers of the Church, and in the powers, limits, practice, and appropriate functions of our ecclesiastical courts.

We trust that no one will be so unreasonable as to attribute to this article an unkind or censorious spirit. We have written from no other motive than an unfeigned desire to do service to the great cause of ministerial education, which affects so intimately all the interests of our Church, and which it is necessary to review in the light both of past experience and of present wants. That our article omits several momentous 'desiderata,' we are perfectly aware. We have thought it superfluous to expatiate on the need of godly sincerity, pure motives, prayerful habits, and a competent acquaintance with the recognised branches of theological study; because these needs, in view of the evangelic ministry, are known and admitted on every side. Our object has been to mention a few points, that are not so generally recognised, and yet the neglect of which may greatly defeat in a modern congregation, the efforts and influence even of a sincerely pious and learned ministry. x

THE TWENTY-THIRD CHAPTER OF THE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

Perplexing, unfortunate chapter! By what perversity of human will hast thou been placed in so conspicuous a niche in the Church of the living God? What controversies, confusions, disruptions, schisms, weepings and wailings amongst brethren in the Church thou hast caused, let the world bear witness for these three hundred years past at least! For thy sake the Church of our fathers has like Job sat upon ashes and bemoaned her sad and desolate