

ploughing the rough ground, harrowing again and again, before you put in your seed. And year after year, you have your summer fallow, keeping a fine field idle for a season, and toiling away at it with plough and cultivator and harrow, content to wait till yet another fall for your crop. Now, if I was to remonstrate against this, as throwing away time and toil, you would very soon tell me that "what I know about farming" was very little indeed. You know that all this outlay and patience will *pay*, in the end.

*D.*—If you can show me how all that young men learn in college is to help them in preaching, as my clearing and working the land helps the crop, that would be something to the point, and I should be very much obliged to you. But I can't see it now; and I am quite sure that if our young friend comes back to quote Latin and Greek and Hebrew from the pulpit, and to preach mathematics and philosophy and all the 'ologies, it won't do plain men like me much good.

*C.*—I am sure, Pastor, if I could only see that these things were necessary, or even helpful and desirable, I should not grudge the time required for them.

*P.*—I shall very willingly give you what aid I can in making the matter clear. But first, I want you to observe the general fact that in every church the demand for an educated ministry is becoming stronger and stronger. The Roman Catholics put their priests through a very long and careful training. The Episcopalians—who have been remiss in special theological education—are now earnestly supplying the defect, while maintaining the former requirement that a clergyman, as a rule, must be a university graduate. The Presbyterians have always kept up a high standard in this respect, and owe their great influence and cohesiveness very much to it, in Britain, the United States and Canada. The Methodists are rapidly adopting the system of Theological Schools, in addition to the four years' probation and annual examination of their "preachers on trial." The Baptists, among some sections of whom there was a prejudice against "human learning," but whose leading men have held strong views in favour of thorough culture, are all coming round to the same views. And thus every denomination that believes in the Ministry as a divinely-instituted office in the Church of Christ, is of one mind on this matter. Among ourselves, the Congregationalists of Old England or of New England, there never has been but one sentiment on the subject. Our great nonconforming forefathers, Owen, Howe, and Calamy, and their illustrious contemporaries, were among the most eminent scholars of their time. When the Pilgrim Fathers came to America, next to the church they planted the school, and soon after the school came the college. There is no more affecting incident in their early history, than the meeting together of their ministers—university men themselves—as at Harvard and Yale, and bringing each a few books from their scanty shelves to form the nucleus of the libraries of those great seats of learning. So, at the present day, in England and in America, the cry is louder than ever for a thoroughly trained ministry. Now, surely, this body of testimony, from so many different sources, through a long period of time, on the part of "experts" on this subject, ought to command great respect.

*D.*—That I can't deny. I am not sure if I knew all these facts before; or, if I did, gave them sufficient consideration. But I'm not entirely satisfied yet. Were not the apostles "unlearned and ignorant men?" Was not John Bunyan a common tinker? Did Mr. Spurgeon ever go to college? And are there not numbers of ministers, of our own and other bodies, who are doing a great deal of good, though not "College-bred" men? Would you shut up their mouths till they have gone to college and taken a degree?

*P.*—"Shut up their mouths!" God forbid! I go with you all the way in acknowledging their personal excellence and their ministerial efficiency. I am very far from thinking that there is only one way into the pulpit, and that through a college. I believe that God, in His all-wise sovereignty, has called, and still calls, many a man direct from the farm and the workshop into the ministry. But let us look at your own examples. First, the apostles. Who called them "unlearned