

geographical representations, which render it indispensable for its expositor to be familiar with ancient literature. And not only so, but it will be found that scarcely a single science which has stood the test of a rational investigation, has been overlooked by the sacred writers. The Bible has been proved to be the great textbook of science, and often the contents of an entire human volume are discovered in one of its verses. To select only one of the many. St. James tells us that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Who can fail to discover here a reference to the solar system? Yet to a modern philosopher is given the credit of enlightening the world upon this subject!

But I need not multiply examples. If any man is in doubt of the propriety of learning in the Christian minister, let him acquaint himself with the writings of Paley, of Dick, of Chalmers, of Wesley, of Watson, and others, who have completely refuted the cavils of the most accomplished infidels, and shown that the Bible stands, as ever, an impregnable fortress against the attacks of its most determined foes. By such men, how triumphantly has that infamous maxim, "Ignorance is the mother of devotion," been hurled back into the teeth of the infidel, and the truth of God vindicated! Although all men have not the facilities for becoming thus extensively learned, all may improve their minds. The Discipline of our Church has wisely provided that every candidate for holy orders must pass through a certain course of studies. But it obliges no one to stop here. Education is the business of life. I envy not the mental condition of that minister who can settle down in habits of indolence—spending his precious time in idle gossip—indulging in sensual gratifications, and neglecting to increase his stock of ideas. I pity the people to whom he ministers. But above all, I would grieve to be his successor in any charge: As "evil communications corrupt good manners", and bad habits are contagious, I should expect to meet with an unfortunate set of parishioners. How much better for the minister to take Paul's advice to Timothy, and "give attendance to reading!"

I remark lastly on ministerial qualifications, that the minister, whatever may be his attainments, *must be sent*. It will not do for him to run of his own accord; he must come from his sovereign, with the credentials of his authority; otherwise he will not be received by the nation to which he resorts. And if he were re-

* Among the "bad habits" above referred to, the use of tobacco deserves a special notice. *Chewing, smoking, and snuff-taking* are extensively practiced by itinerant preachers at the present time. The evil is *physiological, mental, and moral*. There seems to be an extraordinary fatality attending some ministers. They are voluntary slaves to this revolting drug. I fear that the doctrine of *self-denial* must be enforced by them with a bad grace.