

who are anxious to get an education and to qualify themselves for the work of the ministry. But these very men, who are so anxious for an education, and so eager to get into the active work of the ministry, make a great mistake in thinking that they can get an adequate education or become qualified for work by attempting the study of Classics and Mathematics, or by plunging into the study of Theology, while they are still ignorant of those things which almost every school-boy knows.

In consequence of such lenience these men are admitted into our colleges in the hope that, by extra diligence, they may make up for their lack of that common school education which they should have had before they ever darkened a college door. Are such expectations ever realized? Rarely. The result not infrequently is that some men, after remaining a few years in college, pass out into the world as ministers very deficient in education. Their knowledge of History, Geography, Mathematics, English Grammar and Composition is, we verily believe, inferior to that acquired by many of the pupils in our country schools. True, such men have gained, by reason of their age and experience in the world, a knowledge of men and things in general which the school-boy does not possess, and which, when joined with real earnestness and honesty of purpose enables them to do good work; yet it must

be acknowledged that their power is greatly impaired when it is observed that they cannot write a single page without gross violation of the laws of English Grammar.

The minister who displays ignorance in a matter of elementary education cannot expect to be regarded as an authority by hearers whose general education is superior to his own. What dependence can be placed in the spiritual teaching of one who is frequently found tripping in those facts of History, Science or Mathematics with which everybody of ordinary education is familiar? What respect can be entertained for a minister who cannot write two consecutive paragraphs of passable English? He may be respected as an honest, well-meaning man, but surely not as an educated man. Theological knowledge, piety, zeal and earnestness are all essential, we know, but they cannot take the place of secular knowledge. Let us have all the Theological knowledge, all the piety, all the zeal, all the earnestness, all the spirituality we can, but let us not fall into the mistake of thinking that if we have these we can do without a liberal education.

Hitherto, when it was difficult to get men enough to supply the urgent needs of the Church, there may have been some excuse for not rigidly insisting on the requirements laid down in our college calendars, and we have heard of men who have squeezed through college in some way "by hook or by crook" without