

liberal culture, of more profound and solid learning; men more thoroughly furnished for the work to which they are called—the expounding of the oracles of God.

Some good, old-fashioned people tell us that God does not require the aid of human learning to defend His cause or carry on His work. If that be so, He certainly does not require the aid of human ignorance.

It is true, that the early teachers of the Christian faith were unlearned and ignorant men; but as for three years they listened to the words of Him who spake as no man ever spake, they enjoyed instructions in the mysteries of the Gospel such as no men ever had. And before they were permitted to go forth on their evangelistic work, they were all baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire, and did all speak in tongues unknown before—the tongues in which they were to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. The great Apostle of the Gentiles was brought up in all the learning of the age at the feet of Gamaliel, in order that he might carry the Gospel to the philosophers of Athens and Ephesus, as well as to the pleasure-seekers of Corinth and Rome. The early apologists and defenders of the faith were men who had themselves abandoned the schools of Pagan philosophy for the wisdom of Christ. The great Reformers and Christian teachers of the ages—Savonarola, Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, Bucer, Grotius, Arminius, the Wesleys and their coadjutors—have been their noblest intellects and most cultured minds. It would ill become Methodists to depreciate sound scholarship, when the Church of their choice had its birth in the first university of Europe, and its first founders were some of the most learned men of the times in which they lived.

Methodism has ever been true to its early traditions; and, however witlings may sneer, the Church that has given to the world such scholars as a Clarke, a Benson, a Watson, a George Smith, an Etheridge, and a Whedon—to say nothing of the learned Faculties of her fifty colleges and universities, in the Old World and the New—need not shrink from comparison with even the chiefest of the Churches of Christendom.

The present is no time to lessen her efforts for the diffusion