

Church has been approached, that He might send out labourers to labour in His harvest, and those whom he has called have been trained for the work by our colleges and by the oversight of the Presbytery, until, in the providence of God, they have been set apart to their work, as workmen who need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

By such training and oversight an efficient ministry has been, by God's blessing, the strength and bulwark of our church. Sometimes people may blame us for our conservatism in the educating of our ministers, but when we consider the importance of the work, surely, even with all the training they receive, they are not, they cannot be, too well equipped for the work of feeding the flock of God. When we remember that the Apostles enjoyed the personal instruction of Jesus for three years we see the importance of culture for the work of the ministry. From our history in the past, from the record of heroes who have done noble warfare for their Master and for His Church, we are entitled to enumerate as a strong point in our polity, an efficient ministry in the Church of God.

2. *Again, all office holders in the church are chosen by the congregation to whom they are to minister, or in the minor offices, by the representatives of the congregation.* This feature of Presbyterianism in the choice of ministers, elders or deacons, is most remarkable, and is exercised as an inalienable right by the congregation. The Presbytery co-operates with the congregation in the choice of a minister and by its counsel and efforts seeks to help the congregation to come to a wise decision. But never does the Presbytery veto the choice of the people, unless it is clear that the choice is one which would be injurious to the best interests of the Kingdom of Christ. No congregation under any other form of church polity exercises greater liberality in the choice of its officers than the congregations belonging to our own church.

One result of this very wise policy is, that the people themselves, having the choice of their officers in their own hands, are careful in making a choice, and are more willing to abide by their own decision, and for this reason the tie that unites pastor and people is more binding and is therefore better able to bear the strain it may be called upon to endure, by any difficulties which may arise in the congregation, than by any other mode of providing for the settlement of a minister over a congregation.

In the choice of the people, and the consent of the officers chosen, we see one of the strong points of our polity, and which has proved a