

IMPORTANCE OF THEOLOGICAL TRAINING.

IT was the season of the retreating sunshine, the time of approaching winter. Through the deep ravines and over the cloud-capped summits the northern winds had begun their moaning. Half way on their journey had halted what remained of a once strong and hopeful company. Overtaken by disaster and pressed by severe hardships, for which no adequate preparation had been made, the *many* had perished, the *few* remained to brood over lost companions and irretrievable failure.

Later there comes *another* host. Already now they approach their journey's end and catch the inspiration of victory. The same obstacles have been in their way as opposed the former. Summer's heat and Winter's cold, gaunt disease and hated foe have alike hedged up the way of both, yet *these*, prepared for the worst before their starting, now go joyously forward, the fire of success gleaming in the eye, the flush of victory on the cheek, and the soul suffused with joy; while those who started before them sit wasted and broken by the way.

Again I ask you to cast your eye along the journey of life, and here and there upon the hither side of its steep declivities you see sitting with down cast look and heavy heart many who started well in the race, men upon whom has not yet come the blight of age, men clad not in the habiliments of carnal warfare, but in suits of sober black, soldiers of Prince Immanuel, who heard the command to *go*, but heeded not the command to *prepare*,—while pressing past them with joyous heart and strong you see the men who heeded both and now are sure to win. The numbers of these last are constantly becoming greater, for men are being convinced of the importance of theological training. In the past this has been but imperfectly recognized by the Christian Church.

It has been thought, forsooth, that men called upon to deal with problems the weightiest with which the human mind can grapple needed not that special training which other callings demand. Some of this feeling yet remains, and men are to be found to-day, who but lightly esteem the professional school, who say give us the literary