

abuse and a great evil. It would, perhaps, be most logical to begin by formally demonstrating that the neglect spoken of is really widespread and serious. Fortunately, or rather unfortunately, there is no need of proving this simple thesis at length. It will be generally conceded that what has been above assumed as the condition and practical attitude of the Church has been assumed with right. The delinquents are at large, and there is hardly a black-robed transgressor among them all who will not confess judgment against himself. They will even sometimes admit that they do wrong in failing to observe one of the most solemn and venerable regulations of the Church. In an article which I had the honor of writing for the February number of *THE MONTHLY* I called attention to some statistics gathered by Prof. Harper, of Yale College, showing the sad condition of Hebrew and by consequence of Old Testament study among settled ministers in the United States. I feel persuaded that a like investigation in the Church in Canada would not yield a much better showing.\* I added thereto some figures showing the amount of Hebrew that had been read by those of the students then attending Knox College, who had read any at all. In the same number of *THE MONTHLY* appeared an article, evidently meant to be serious, by a minister of the Church with M.A. to his name, in which the study not only of Hebrew but of all other "dead" languages whatsoever was inveighed against in unmistakable terms. It may then be safely taken for granted that the sentiment with regard to the study of Hebrew among the ministers and students of the Church is, on the whole, lukewarm, and the practice, as a general thing, torpid.

In trying to show the true significance of this state of things it is not necessary for me to prove that the neglect of Hebrew is wrong; it will be sufficient to show that it is injurious. The question of moral responsibility can be disposed of by each for himself, and it is probable that where it really is thought of as connected with moral obligation it is settled off-hand with the reflection that as to the subjects of ministerial education the

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\*Here and there an exception must be made. Among the 1,200 ministers addressed by Prof. Harper not one had read the Hebrew Bible through. I have in mind especially a clergyman of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, now an honored professor of natural science in one of our universities, who still reads at least a chapter daily in Hebrew, and who during his pastorate had in a few years read through several times not only the Hebrew but also the Greek Old Testament.