

THE ARTS STUDENT IN THE MISSION FIELD.

A YOUNG man, who is looking forward to a college training in Arts with a view to the ministry, finds in the calendar of the college at which he proposes to enter on a course of theological training, a notice "that all students may and that all theological students are expected to engage in active work in the mission field during the summer months." Of what this work consists he is ignorant, but has a vague idea that his time will be principally taken up visiting, distributing tracts and Bibles and holding religious meetings in out of the way corners, where the people never had the privileges of regular service from an ordained pastor. Many are therefore greatly surprised—and often discomfited, too—on reaching their location to find instead of the insignificant place they pictured to themselves, a thriving, intelligent settlement of Scotch Presbyterians it may be, to whom the preaching of the Gospel is no rarity, and the majority so well versed in the "Westminster Confession of Faith" that they can detect an error in doctrine, or a weakness in theology anywhere within hearing distance.

Sometimes, too, it may happen that trouble has arisen in what was once a prosperous congregation supporting a regular pastor. Things go on from bad to worse and finally the minister resigns; the people lose their interest. Some do not attend church at all. Others have united it may be with other denominations, and everything is badly disorganized. At such a time as this the Presbytery resolve to send a student to this field. And he comes laboring under many and serious disadvantages. In the first place he is just free from the worries of his first year at college, to which the probabilities are he came insufficiently prepared. Latin mythology, Greek roots and the intricacies of the Hebrew verb are not in the meantime good preparations for preaching the Gospel. Some, indeed, maintain that they tend to diminish the spiritual life of the Christian.

Then the student—who, perhaps, has never preached before—has been preceded, it may be, by a clever, scholarly expounder of Holy Writ.

Many pastors who have been long in the work confess that they seldom go into the pulpit without having more or less nervousness