

it need hardly be said, that no reflections are intended to be cast on the cultured and worthy men who occupy chairs in our College. They are doing their work nobly and well. But when we consider the number of subjects with which they are required to deal, no one wonders that they themselves are anxious to be relieved of part of their work, and to cast it upon the shoulders of another, in order that the whole might be discharged yet more efficiently.

If our Church is to retain its prestige for true solidity and worth, and be an effective instrument in moulding and controlling the times, our College must continue to be a seat of learning. If in any adequate degree, it is to meet the requirements of our Church, it must maintain and increase its strength scholastically, and this for various reasons.

1. Everybody admits that our Church must very largely depend upon our own College for its supply of ministers. It goes without saying, that we are anxious to secure for the ranks of our ministry, the most thoughtful, cultured men possible. Lack of adequate scholarship in our ministry, means ruin to our Church. Now what are the special characteristics in a Theological College, that naturally attract young men of this stamp? Are they those that relate to the practical or the scholastic? This question admits of but one answer. To retain, therefore, the class of young men referred to, for our ministry, we must do our best to retain them in our College; and in order to accomplish that, we must seek full equipment in the direction of Biblical Scholarship, rather than in that of the practical so called. Competition with other Colleges will scarcely ever lie along the line of the practical.

2. The tendencies of the times, at least as I view them, also argue in the same direction. And this in two aspects:

(1.) No person who is deeply interested in the true prosperity of our Church will be disposed to deny the importance of evangelistic work. But any one who has observed, with any degree of care, the character of the teaching, and the methods of working, exhibited by many assuming the position of evangelists, can hardly fail to see, that while doubtless good is being effected, evil results also follow. There is danger of producing a narrow and shallow type of Christianity. This does not of course necessarily attach to evangelistic work. But the tendency is to press