

I do not quite see how the Hebrew and Greek texts will deal death blows to the modernists anyway, although, of course, they may be of great importance in any discussion with them. Their primary importance, it seems to me, is not so much for argument with modernists as for help in the interpretation of the Bible, in order that Christians may grow thereby. I wish that every one of our graduates was so familiar with Hebrew and Greek that he could read any passage in Old or New Testament at sight, but I fear that we will never reach this point. It would take much more than a three year course to attain it, even with the highest ranking students.

I fear that these four requirements that you have described would be impossible of attainment, even if the seminary course were fifteen years, instead of three. I agree thoroughly with the desire to hold our standards extremely high, yet I feel that we must be careful not to express them in such a way as simply to discourage people by making the standards impossible of attainment.

I fear that your statement that a man who has never had philosophy can gain a working knowledge of it in a couple of weeks time with a college review handbook, is much too sanguine.

Your suggestion that the man should stand examination on the full contents on the form of government of the ... Church, and likewise a full examination on the contents of the Book of Discipline is a good one. I was at a meeting of the P. Presbytery not long ago, when discussion was taken up of a very important point of procedure, and the group argued for nearly half an hour as to exactly what should be done. Finally someone arose and read a very clear statement in the Form of Government, which completely settled the matter. All the members of the presbytery seem to have completely forgotten this point, if they had ever known it.

The ... Church, like any other church, is faced with a practical situation. We can imagine the sort of perfect ministers we would like to have, but they do not exist anywhere. We have to pick the best men that we can find among those who are available. If you had sat in committees and in presbyteries during many years as I have, you would often have felt quite discouraged as to the outlook. And yet, you would have seen, as I have, some men who made very poor examinations, later become outstanding leaders