

describes the primitive church, established by Christ and his apostles, as an institution thoroughly democratic ; and is not this a strong testimony in favor of free civil governments ? especially when they, and they alone, harmonize with the whole spirit of Christianity, which regards all men as brethren of a common Father. Indeed, though the Bible directs Christians to obey whatever rulers Providence may have placed over them, so long as they are tolerable, yet where has it given a testimony in favor of any other except a free government ?

In the characteristics both of the members and the ministers of the church, which the Bible has given, we find also a testimony in favor of education, as essential to the purity of religion and freedom. It demands, first of all, an intelligent and rational submission of intellect and heart to the authority and will of God ; and then it directs believers to “prove all things, and to hold fast that which is good” — a requisition impossible to a mind entirely uneducated. Then, too, if we read Paul’s descriptions of the ministerial character, especially in his Epistles to Timothy, we shall see a demand for a very thorough mental discipline. Even under the old dispensation, it was said that “the priests’ lips should keep knowledge.” We are not, then, surprised to hear Paul exhorting Timothy “to give attendance to reading,” as well as to “exhortation and doctrine ;” also, to “meditate on these things, and give himself wholly to them, that his profiting might appear to all, and that he might make full proof of his ministry.” Surely, nothing but thorough literary discipline could qualify a man for such a work. Theology, the noblest of all sciences, is but the quintessence of them all ; and he only who has studied them can extract and condense it.

Is it not clear, then, that the Bible, while it places religion