

vantages of a crowded home, Joseph Priestley was adopted and educated by a wealthy and noble aunt. So well was his education attended to, that at the age of twenty-two he was conversant with French, German, Italian, Latin, Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, Chaldean, and Arabic, nor was his knowledge of mathematics in any way deficient. Of his aunt's generosity, Priestley says: "My aunt spared no expense in my education, and that was doing more for me than giving me an estate."

We now find Priestley starting out to fight life's battles, single handed, as a Unitarian preacher. His success as a preacher and writer, his advanced theological and political views caused the common people to conceive a burning hatred for him, for they saw him not through the lens of broad intelligence but rather through the lens of bigotry and depravity. In the cause of right he feared no foe and took the field against all comers. The Archbishop of Canterbury; the great orator, Burke; the renowned Blackstone and the Board of Longitude, all came under the ban of his pen. "Oratory and Criticism," "A Theory of Language," "Constitution and Laws of England," "Education," "The French Revolution" and "The American War" are but a few of his many works. He was, beyond doubt, one of the most voluminous writers that England ever produced. No man ever covered a greater field of knowledge in his works than did Joseph Priestley, the physiologist, the electrician, the mathematician, the logician, the moralist, the theologian, the mental philosopher and the political economist. "It seems to me," said Priestley in his work on Education, "a defect in our present system of public education that a proper course of studies is not provided for gentlemen who are designed to fill the principal stations of active life, distinct from those which are adapted to the learned professions." This, the first call for technical institutions such as the one which to-day becomes more near and dear to us