

for the service of God, and humanity. You are now God's special property, and you are henceforth to devote all your time, and talents, and powers, to His service. It is to be your life work. In the sunny morning of youth, the sultry noon of manhood, and amid the shadows of old age, you are to be the stewards of the Most High God. We give you our greetings, our sympathy, our prayers; but the grace to be faithful must be obtained from Him whom you serve. You believe it to be the will of your 'Divine Master that you should be employed in the Methodist branch of His Church. You have studied its doctrines, and polity, and are satisfied that they are in harmony with the teaching of God's Word, and you have, after much thought and prayer, felt it to be God's will that you should offer yourselves for the work of the ministry in the Methodist Church. After much examination and prayer, the Church has received you. You are now Methodist ministers; and a higher position you cannot have this side heaven.

God has done His part. We have done ours. See that you do yours.

II. The Charge with which you are entrusted.

It is of supreme importance that you should accurately ascertain the nature and extent of the trust committed to your care. Without this it will be impossible for you to know your duty, or to understand your responsibility. It is clear that you have a trust beyond that committed to ordinary Christians. As Christians you are admitted into Christ's army; as ministers you are officers in that army: as Christians you have to take heed to yourselves; as ministers you have to care for others. It is a high honour, but it brings with it great responsibility.

A steward will not only make himself thoroughly acquainted with the trust committed to his care, but he will carefully examine the directions under which he is to act.