

has glowed with desire to go up; but you hesitated; you looked at your enemies instead of looking to Jesus, and your faith failed; and so you wander still "in the wilderness, in a solitary way." It is perilous to stay there. There are worse foes where you are than in Canaan. In the wilderness are "fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought,—serpents that bite with a poisoned tooth,—scorpions that sting the soul to death,—drought, beneath whose terrible power Carmel languishes, and every bud of spiritual promise droops and dies. Your own safety demands that you get out of the wilderness as speedily as you may.

"Let us go up at once, and possess it." God commands you to go up. "Speak unto the people that they go forward," is still His word. And again,—*"Leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection."* You cannot stay where you are without ignoring God's commandment and imperiling your own soul. "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh;" see that you despise not the glorious privilege God hath set before you. For this end God brought you out of Egypt, that you might go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. He has wrought for you already a glorious deliverance. He has led you thus far through the wilderness. "Take heed" that there be not in you "an evil heart of unbelief," lest you die in the wilderness, as did those who believed not God in days of old. For the sake of our own souls, let us go up. You have already the joy of conscious pardon—a heart at peace with God through faith in Jesus. This is well; but "God hath provided some better thing" for you. If, then, you would "walk in the light,"—if you would have fellowship with the Father and the Son,—if you would "rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks,"—if you would have

"A heart in every thought renewed,  
And full of love divine,"

"go up at once."

Let the Ministers of Jesus "go up." It is a fact pregnant with the most solemn responsibilities, that the spirituality of a Church never rises above the level of the spirituality of its Ministers. "Like priest, like people," is an adage which holds good here. Show me an apathetic, worldly-minded ministry, and I will show you an apathetic, worldly-minded Church. Show me a holy ministry, and I will show you a holy Church. Our people, as a rule, will not, in point of spirituality, get beyond our teaching; and we can teach effectively only what we experimentally know. If holiness is to become the common experience of the people, the ministry must lead the way. The soldiers will not march boldly up while the captains of the host linger behind.

It cannot be doubted that the universal experience of a full salvation among the ministry of the Church would effect a transformation in our preaching as marvellous as that of Pentecost. And with this transformation in preaching would disappear the complaint of discouraging failure,—of careless, unconverted hearers,—of waning pulpit power. If in every pulpit the