

can hardly find a passage comprehended within the same limits, which sets before us in a more direct manner the nature of our vocation, and the character, which, in the discharge of it, we ought to exhibit.

We are the **MINISTERS** of **CHRIST** :—We are the **STEWARDS** of the **MYSTERIES** of **GOD** :—Ye see your calling brethren, (if I may vary the original application of these words :) Frail “ earthen vessels ” that we are in ourselves, we are charged with the everlasting treasures of salvation, we are the depositaries and dispensers of “ the unsearchable riches of Christ. ”—And it is required of us, that in the execution of this awful and exalted trust, we be found faithful before God.—Who that is truly awakened to consider its nature and responsibility, can fail to tremble at the contemplation of such a charge ?—Who can be bold to say that he is that Steward at once faithful and wise, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find giving to his servants their meat in due season ? Merciful God !—if each individual christian is warned to work out his salvation with fear and trembling, what is the task of those who are appointed to watch for the souls of *others*, as they that *must give account* !—Grant to us, O gracious Father, a deep, an adequate impression of the office with which we are invested, and sustain us by the constant remembrance that our sufficiency is of Thee ; that if we are faithful it is because, as the Apostle speaks of himself, we *receive mercy* to be faithful. Shed down upon us thy Holy Spirit of glory and of grace, that this day our hearts may be moved and our faithfulness increased, in the cause whose interests we are sworn to maintain.

“ O Timothy, ” says our Apostle, in that affectionate strain of personal interest, which, in more than one of his Epistles, gives additional life to instructions designed for all succeeding ages :—“ O Timothy, keep that which is committed to