

Besides, you will find the first months of your residence in a Circuit specially valuable as a seed time. An old preacher, when I was entering the ministry, cheered me by saying—"You need not fear to go to any Circuit to which you are appointed, for I have noticed that all the preachers are popular till Christmas." There is a great deal in this, and it shows the immense importance of your seizing the precious weeks in which everybody is believing you to be pre-eminently suited for their requirements, in order that, before the frost of prejudice can harden the soil, you may sow the good seed of the kingdom. Don't heed the cynics who talk about new brooms sweeping clean. Tell them that you have learnt to strike while the iron is hot, and to sail when the wind, and tide, are favourable. I know that all this will be a heavy tax upon your time, and strength. But I take it for granted that you have not entered the ministry for "a morsel of bread," or for social position, or that you may live a life of learned leisure. If you have, you have done a deed that might make a demon tremble. An idle minister is a monster that should be hooted from Society. An idle minister is a criminal against whom God's fiercest anger will blaze in the great day of His coming. But, brethren, I am persuaded better things of you. You have entered our ranks "to do the work of the ministry." You are sensible of the high honour which is conferred upon you; but you are also tremblingly sensible of the tremendous responsibility which is laid upon you; you feel that

" 'Tis not a work of small import
The pastor's care demands;
But work to fill an angel's heart,
And filled the Saviour's hands."

See, then, that you set about this work in a right spirit and in a right way. See that your time is rightly divided and rightly employed. Don't drift: steer, and row. Have