

SERMON XIX.

"The Duties of the Flock to the Pastor."

(An Address to a Congregation at the Ordination of a Pastor.)

SINCE the organization of this congregation, my dear brethren, you have experienced varied dispensations in the providence of God. You have had years of prosperity and times of trial. You have been greatly favored with the ministrations of godly pastors, who have labored among you faithfully for Christ, and for your souls' sake,—and you have suffered bereavements. Some you have been called upon by the Lord to give up to Himself,—that having ceased from their labors, they might enter into their rest. Others you have been required to surrender, at the call of the Church, to occupy other spheres in the vineyard, sacrificing your individual wishes and your apparent interests, as a congregation, for the promotion of the prosperity of our Zion, or the advancement of the cause of Christ in general. Under these varied dealings, you have been taught, I trust, to appreciate the privilege of a faithful ministry. You have known what it is to have it, and what it is to want it,—and, I trust, that, under these circumstances, you have been led, at the present time, to seek, with all sincerity and earnestness, through prayer for the direction and blessing of God in the matter, a pastor whom the Lord Himself will approve, and whom He will bless, alike for your spiritual instruction and edification, and for the advancement of His own glory in the Church, and in the world. Upon the choice you have made depends, doubtless, very greatly your prosperity as a congregation, and the success of the Lord's work among you. But, remember, my brethren, that it is not, even under God, wholly upon your pastor that the success of the work depends.