

of Christ must endure. On all these sides the minister must have sentinels posted, but I purpose to speak of certain things which, if not more closely connected with his work, are more speedily apparent on the surface of it.

Many a minister is tempted to mis-spend his time. Scarcely any other man has it so absolutely under his own control. But this very fact permits indolence to measure out too easy tasks for itself, and to dawdle the hours away. Other men have their work cut out for them by the exigencies of their callings. They must be in the office, the store, the class-room, or at an engagement with others at a given hour, and step by step they are forced to constant activity by the pressure of their circumstances. Their duties are like piece-work, the less they do the less they earn. But the minister gets his salary whether he work or not, because a great part of his work must be done where no censor stands over him. Only the outcome of years can show whether it has been faithfully performed or not—indeed, only the day of judgment can reveal many of his wasted hours.

Perhaps it may seem ungenerous for a minister even to hint that any of his brethren can be guilty of an indolent misuse of time. Well, if this is not the case, what mean the widespread unrest in many congregations, the cases of difficulty between pastor and people which are not infrequently before presbyteries, and the very short average pastorate in many fields. Why is the moderator of the session of the very humblest vacant congregation (in a city) constantly deluged with such a multitude of applications for a hearing from every point of the compass? Is not the core of the trouble in many cases that the minister has become weak, flat, stale and unprofitable in the pulpit, because he has largely ceased those habits of study which were forced upon him when he was a student. Consider the men who successfully hold the pulpits of this or any other city, and I venture to say that their diligence when students could not be compared with the thoroughness, the system, the intensity with which they study still. And I venture to say still further that there is scarcely