

tion is increased by the multitude of duties incident to our Circuit arrangements. Too often to this temptation is to sink, and fail. The continued repetition of a sermon, from which the life has departed, is an injury to ourselves, and a wrong to the people to whom we minister. One of our wealthy men offered me £500 for the Ministers' Rest Fund if I could persuade all the ministers to burn their old sermons, and begin afresh. This can hardly be done, but making new sermons will wonderfully reinvigorate the old ones. See to it that your sermons be characterized by variety, freshness, and life. If you make the Bible your storehouse, you will easily succeed in this. Look at the Puritans, and at our Methodist forefathers, and you will find this gloriously illustrated. They breathed an atmosphere of Scripture, and it pervaded all their thoughts and words. Their sermons throb with Biblical life. You will find that attention to visiting will greatly assist you in this work. The variety of experience that you will meet with, will suggest a constant variety of subjects, while illustrations, full of point and beauty, will be presented in abundance. Don't forget Mr. Wesley's advice to his preachers, "Don't be too loud." Loud preaching is always a mistake; it exhausts the preacher, and does not benefit the congregation. Be thoroughly in earnest, but husband your strength; and remember that it is not the thunder, but the lightning, that does the execution. One of the first plans I remember had at the bottom of the list of preachers, a verse that had in it a whole system of elocution—

"Begin low, rise slow; take fire, rise higher."

Another part of Mr. Wesley's advice is, "*Do not be too long.*" This also is good advice. Long preaching is a weariness to the people, and an injury to the preacher. If you are not in earnest, the sooner you stop the better; and if you are