

them not to come unto Christ, will not only be blessed with youthful conversions, but will also imprint these characteristics upon every one whom he may send forth into the harvest. The Sabbath School will do much for the lad whose history we are tracing, as to his knowledge of God's word, his aptness to teach, the style of his early piety, and his activity in Christian work. It ought to be a good one. The entire condition of the Church of which he is a member is telling every day upon the character of the preacher-to-be. If it is cold and quarrelsome, it will chill him; if united, active and liberal, it will fan the sacred fire enkindled in his heart, and give him a model to which he will seek to bring up any other flock over which the Holy Ghost may make him overseer.

In these things our young friend is subject to influences common to all the children of the Church. But that brotherhood has further an important part to perform in respect to his desiring the office of a bishop. Will his parents and friends and fellow members regard that as "a good work," or as so unprofitable, in the worldly sense, that they look on his aspirations as a flash of boyish enthusiasm? Will they judge of its requirements, intellectual and spiritual, so wisely and faithfully as to make their recommendation no matter of course? Will they have courage enough to check the vain, ignorant and presumptuous, who seek their own glory? Or will they treat the whole matter with stolid indifference? Upon the manner in which a young man is handled by his Pastor and brethren at such a time largely depend both his entrance on the work and the character and success of his entire ministry.

The Churches with which he may worship as a student, and especially those to which he may occasionally minister, have also a large share of responsibility. Everything like flattery or petting should be avoided, but there should be encouraging welcome and, when deserved, hearty commendation. Let the student be made to feel, that what is wanted most is not that he should be a "smart" man, but an earnest and faithful one. Let him receive spiritual coöperation, personal kindness, pecuniary generosity. "Let no man despise his youth." To have his early efforts received with offensive patronage or prayerless insensibility, may blast the early promise of a sensitive spirit. But to spend his first vacation with a working Church may give him an impulse that will never cease.

Finally, the Church over which a minister is settled, while receiving much from him, imparts also day by day. "And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest." If they demand a weekly exhibition of rhetorical fireworks, the poor man may be tempted to comply; or, if too faithful for such a performance, will go about his preparations and enter the pulpit with a heavy heart. An exacting and censorious people, coming together to be "entertained" upon the Lord's Day, demanding popularity, not fidelity; ever calling out, "we are not visited," but when the Pastor comes refusing to take part in