

Having thus directed your attention to some of the subjects which appeared to me most worthy of notice, I have now to speak more directly of your personal responsibility, and of the manner in which your ministerial functions ought to be discharged. Upon this topic many of you, my reverend brethren, are probably much better qualified to instruct *me* than I am to instruct *you*; but I must not shrink from the performance of the duty devolving upon me, so long as the great Head of the Church is pleased to retain me in the office which in His providence I have been called to fill.

I have at other times advised you strictly to observe the anniversaries of your ordination, by reading the exhortations *then* addressed to you and the vows *then* uttered, with self-examination and prayer; and it is scarcely possible to use language more forcible than *that* addressed to you by the Church, through the mouth of the Bishop, when you were admitted to the Holy Order of Priests. But those general exhortations are to be applied in detail; the temptations to which we are exposed vary with the course of time; the tendency of men's minds is at one period towards one form of error, and at another in an opposite direction.

In our day elementary instruction is within the reach of every inhabitant of the Province; but we are reminded that the diffusion of education is not an unmixed good. While we endeavor to promote it, we must not be unmindful of the danger to be apprehended, unless wholesome literature is at the same time provided for those who are acquiring a taste for reading; and it becomes our duty to supply them as far as possible, so that the ability to read may be made instrumental in facilitating our ministry. We cannot doubt that upon the whole the dissemination of learning, and the development of the faculties vouchsafed by God to man, must be beneficial; but the tree of which the fruit was so fatal was the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil," and still the evil is mingled with the good, and unhappily the propagators of error appear to be generally more active than the maintainers of the truth. At all events, they are more numerous, and it is to be feared that many of the lax publications of this age are circulated through the country, so that persons become acquainted with sceptical objections and difficulties, who are altogether unqualified for controversy, and attach undue importance to those objections, merely because they are themselves unable to refute them.