

far more effectual to preach it privately to a particular sinner as to himself : for the plainest man that is can scarcely speak plain enough in public for them to understand ; but in private we may do it much more. In public we may not use such homely expressions or repetitions as their dulness requires ; but in private we may. In public our speeches are long, and we quite overrun their understandings and memories, and they are confounded and at a loss, and not able to follow us, and one thing drives out another, and so they know not what we say ; but in private we can take our work *gradatim*, and take our hearers along us ; and by our questions and their answers, we can see how far they understand us. Besides, we can better answer their objections and engage their promises before we leave them, which in public we cannot do. I conclude, therefore, that public preaching will not be sufficient ; for though it may be an effectual means to convert many, yet not so many as experience and God's appointment of further means may assure us. Long may you study and preach to little purpose, if you neglect this duty."

As an advantage arising from this work we remark : 3rd. *It is calculated to impress the people with a sense of our interest in them, and affection for them.* That deep longing for the salvation of men that leads us to go after them earnestly and lovingly is sure to tell on the hearts and consciences of those with whom we have to do. Love for our work and ardour in it will lead us to spare no pains to win souls. The Pastors of Israel were blamed for neglecting their duties. "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel, against the pastors that feed my people, "Ye have scattered my flock and driven them away, and have not visited them ; behold I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord." And again, "Woe be unto the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves ; should not the shepherds feed the flock ? Ye eat the fat and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed ; but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost." Words of warning, awakening the true spirit of our office ; setting before us the claims of the poor, the weak, the sick, the wandering. We "watch for souls as they that must give an account." "That we may do it with joy and not with grief," we must leave no opportunity neglected of warning and beseeching men to be reconciled to God : pointing out Jesus who was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. We must bring the influence of our character, affection and position to captivate the hearts of the people, and lead them to the hearty and loving service of Jesus.

Let amusements fill up the chinks of your existence, not the great spaces thereof. Let your pleasures be taken as Daniel took his prayers, with his windows open—pleasures which need not cause a single blush on an ingenuous cheek.

Some men are called sagacious, merely on account of their avarice : whereas a child can clench its fist the moment it is born.—*Shenstone*.

George McDonald says : "One thing is clear to me, that no indulgence of passion destroys the spiritual nature so much as respectable selfishness."