

KNOWLEDGE"¹—the two qualifications which are absolutely indispensable to a successful ministry. They are single terms to express the phrases, *know God* and *make Him known*.

The first object, then, of the minister of the Gospel is, as fully as possible, to know God. There is no question but that he knows God most intimately whose soul is a *prayerful* one. The man who goes into the closet and talks with God, is the man who, of all men, will catch God's Spirit. Moses and Elijah were men of might because they were men of prayer. Even Christ, though He was the Son of God, fitted Himself for His struggles and work by communion with the Father. How often did the hours of the night, on the lonely mountain top, steal past Him silently, hushing even the night winds into stillness lest they should disturb that bowed figure of the praying Saviour!

"Prayer—the onward, heavenward road ;
 'Tis the ladder up to God ;
 'Tis the way by which we go
 Round and round proud Jericho ;
 'Tis the sound of trumpet blast,
 Bringing down the walls at last ;
 'Tis the telegraphic cord,
 Holding converse with the Lord :
 'Tis the key of promise given
 'Turning in the lock of heaven.'"

He is not a man of God, who is not a man of prayer ; and he will never know God who does not talk with God. But with this brief reference to this means of knowing God, insisting, however, that it is *absolutely essential*, I wish to outline three departments of study, where not only will you learn to know God, but also where you will find much to help you in making Him known.

DEPARTMENT I.—Study the word of God in the Bible.

Your object in life is to *know God* and to *make Him known*. All that God has been pleased to reveal about Himself—beyond what He teaches by His Spirit, and by His dealings with man, and His workings in nature—He has compressed into the pages of the Bible. If we wish to know God, then, the Bible must become our text-book. It must be to the minister what the fields are to the farmer ; what merchandise is to the merchant : what iron is

7. 1 Cor. I: 4-5. S. Robert Maguire.