

ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." Strive to carry out the dying request addressed to his venerable father by the late faithful and gifted Dudley Tyng, of Philadelphia, "Father, let us stand up for Jesus! Let us stand up for Jesus!"

3. Make full proof of your ministry, *by prayerful dependence on the Holy Ghost for all success.* In one sense, there is no work that shows the littleness of man, like the work of the Christian ministry. In other walks of human activity there is a natural bond of union between talents and success. But there is no such link of connection between the exercise of gifts in the ministry, and its great end, the conversion of men. After the display of the highest human powers in preaching the gospel, an infinite might is needed to give effect to the word, else not a single soul will be turned to Christ; and man of himself can do absolutely nothing to secure this saving strength. The greatest and the best of God's servants are here on a level in the experience of their impotence, and the Lord Himself, must "give testimony to the word of His grace." We cannot doubt indeed there is a certain order of means he co-operates with, more readily, and more fully than others; because they are more according to His will, and for His glory. But this is the truth, my Brother, I seek to impress on you; all means, all preaching, all efforts in the ministry are alike ineffectual unless accompanied by Omnipotent grace. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." You hear how apostolic preachers glory in this dependance on the Spirit, for all success: "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase, so then, neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." In like manner all who have laboured in the church with success, have cherished this humble, entire reliance on God the Spirit, for giving saving effect to their ministry. "God poureth contempt on princes, He maketh them to wander in a wilderness where there is no way, yet setteth He the poor on high, and increaseth them with families like a flock." Ah, my dear Brother, this is a truth most difficult to feel in our inmost heart; that apart from the grace of the Spirit, we are of ourselves absolutely nothing, in the work of the Christian ministry. It is easy indeed to give this a place in our creed, and to say in words we believe it; but how difficult it is to feel it in our "heart of hearts," and to cherish it always as a loved truth there, laying us ever low before God, in humble dependance on Him. How difficult it is to prepare sermons, and to preach them with this as the uppermost thought. How difficult to enter the pulpit every day, and to leave it with this as our deepest feeling: "Our sufficiency is of God." Yet, this is essential to our making full proof of our ministry. "I will be sanctified, saith the Lord, in them that draw nigh unto me, and before all the people I will be glorified." Alas it is to be feared, forgetfulness of this entire dependance on the Spirit, is one great cause of much barrenness in the ministry among us. Living as we do under the dispensation of the Spirit, why is He so sparingly bestowed? Why are