

hear it the power of God, then the cross of CHRIST is made of none effect, the preaching of it is "foolishness to them that perish."\*

But what if he be besides, a savour of death, not simply through his office, but through his maladministration of it. Is it not an awful thing to contemplate the possibility of our losing souls—souls that never perish,—through our own fault or carelessness: that when the Great Shepherd counts His sheep, and other pastors give theirs "with joy,"† the hireling shall render up his with grief and shame; having fled from his charge because he was an hireling; and now he calls upon the mountains to cover him, because with lies he has made the heart of the righteous sad, whom CHRIST hath not made sad, and has strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he shall not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:‡—now in anguish he cries aloud in vain for the "wings of the morning that he may dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,"§ in order to flee from the presence which he cannot endure knowing that he has "brought into bondage" the little ones of Christ, "has devoured them, has taken of them, has exalted himself over them, has (as it were) smitten them in the face."|| Then,

Brethren in the Ministry, "what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness; looking for, and hastening unto the coming of the day of God"?¶ ourselves, and leading on our flocks to the same awful expectation. Surely if all Christians are bound to "try and examine themselves," much more are we! Have we then done so, are we willing to do so? Or do we turn away from the glass, because we behold there only a "man's *natural* face?"\*\* Let us ever employ in solemn thoughtfulness, those holy seasons which the wisdom of the Church—a wisdom which churchmen, alas! too often fail to appreciate, because they do not apply

\* 1 Cor. i. 18.    † Heb. xiii. 17.    ‡ Ezek. xiii. 22.    § Ps. cxxxix. 9.  
 ¶ 2 Cor. x. 20.    ¶ 2 Pet. iii. 11.    \*\* St. James i. 23.