

of it. But we know it carries with it the joy and blessedness which Jesus Himself shares. It is the emblem of eternal victory and eternal glory ; says the apostle, to be given " not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." And of these there are many. Unknown yet true and faithful servants, as well as many who march at the head of the army amid the blare of trumpets ; for all, the crown remains. They who here in the world's judgment were least and lowest, and most to be pitied, are there the crowned ones, the occupiers of thrones, thrones that abide.

Let us then fight on, wherever our post may be, high or low, let us keep the faith as we would keep life itself, and then we will be prepared for " His appearing."

If then it is justifiable to apply the language of the text to any sphere of human life, it most certainly may be applied with truth now as in the apostles' day, to the ministers of the gospel and especially to those who entered upon their work in the backwoods of this country forty or fifty years ago. And there were a number of able men who willingly gave themselves to this pioneer work, and with a spirit of self-denial continued in it for a lifetime. They laboured in the remote and new settlements then existing, sharing the rough experiences of their people, and with diligence and faithfulness laid the foundations of the communities growing up around them, in the principles of the Word of God. Their position in these charges was one of great usefulness and influence, but also one of much difficulty.

The minister of a small and struggling charge has a position and work far more difficult to fill than his, who has a large and prosperous congregation. This is always the case. It is as true to-day as in those earlier days. We should remember that these smaller charges constitute the great majority in the church, and contain the majority of the members in the church. The