

## Contributed and Selected Articles.

## MAGNIFY IT.

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MAGNIFY what? Magnify the Gospel ministry. Why? on what grounds? On the threefold ground of its origin, its dignity, its design.

Its *origin* is Divine. "No man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that was called of God, as was Aaron." Heb. v. 4.

The call, like the office itself, emanates from all three Persons in the Godhead. From the *Son*, who promised to the apostles, just before his departure, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end." Matt. xxviii. 19. And having ascended He gave as his inestimable legacy to the Church, "Some, apostles; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." Eph. iv. 11. From the *Father*, too, who sent his own Son as the chief minister of the sanctuary, and the model preacher for all times and dispensations; and through Him gave to the Church to the end of time, "The ministry of reconciliation." From the *Holy Ghost*, too, it emanates, for He it is who calls to the office, who endows the candidate with all necessary equipment, guides and directs in the work, and blesses to good results all his labours.

The sacred office is thus traced direct up to the very footstool of the eternal throne; and to each Person of the Trinity owes equal honour and service; and by it each of these three adorable Persons is severally and equally glorified.

Such being its origin, what is the *dignity* of the Christian ministry, and its grandeur?

Its dignity is commensurate with the Divinity of its origin. No earthly honour or exaltation can for a moment compare with it. This it is which engaged the time and energies of the Lord of Glory Himself when on earth, and furnished Him with supremest delight; is charged with with the cure of immortal souls; is ordained for the renovation of the world, and its restoration to its original sinlessness; and is the channel of communication for God's grace and truth to man, and man's homage and devotion to God in return. In a word, its province encompasses the interests of all three worlds—heaven, earth, and hell; and is the direct medium of intercourse between man and his Maker.

Now, assuredly, it is of prime moment that both those who minister, and those ministered unto, should alike possess just and lofty conceptions of the dignity and importance of this Divine institution. It will elevate the standard of Christian consistency among the clergy themselves. It will brace up to higher aim and endeavour all young candidates for the office. It will do much toward elevating the people above those secular and mercenary notions of church-membership and church obligations which characterize so many. It will contribute much toward that charity, and unity, and harmony, so befitting Christ's mystical body. And it would be an unanswerable argument before the world on behalf of Christianity and its Divine Author.