

but new and much more seductive wiles of the Adversary surround him on every side. The Son of God Himself, when dwelling among men, was tempted in all points like as we are, and one temptation at least which he endured could not have had any force with another being.

There may be ministers who occupy a position of such rare spiritual eminence that, for them, such temptations as I am about to describe have ceased to be. I can only bow before them and acknowledge the Omnipotent grace which has made them to differ so greatly from myself. I am speaking, however, to the rank and file of our brethren, companions in the hardships and tribulations of our common life; too often only partially sanctified; hurried by the difficulties of pastoral duty into sin; burdened with tasks unperformed; tormented by the falseness, Pharisaism, hypocrisy and unreasonableness of men; weighed down by the dread responsibilities of the sacred office, yet still chained fast to it by conscience and the providence of God.

To attempt any exhaustive catalogue of the seductions to evil which beset the servant of the Lord would be a dry and difficult task. An American has said that there are just three hundred and fifty-two sins possible to ordinary men, but a minister has a wider field for transgression. And yet the subject cannot be made definite without a discussion of some specific dangers.

There are many temptations which assail him, like other men, on the side of his God-ward life. He may have his own spiritual sensibilities numbed by his constant professional contact with Biblical ideas and Christian experiences. Because he has to pray so often in public and in his pastoral work, he may find it difficult to continue in the true spirit of prayer, and may neglect secret devotion. He may come to study divine truth for a purely intellectual or homiletic purpose, rather than with a practical, personal aim. Being petted and spoiled by an indulgent people, he may grow haughty, imperious and dogmatic; or softly and gently luxurious, very far removed from that warrior hardness which every true soldier