

his lips, not as his, but the Word of God, and himself as God's minister, for their spiritual edification. The Ministerial office is of Divine appointment, and to reject it is to reject not man but God. You remember what the Saviour says on this point,—“He that heareth you heareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me.” This is a subject, my brethren, which should occupy your thoughts and engage your best attention: and it surely will be profitable to you, if only you rightly consider and apply it. If, as we have already noticed, they who watch for your souls have to give an account of their ministry—of their diligence and faithfulness in their office,—will not an account be equally demanded from you? And ought not every one of the congregation, while the day is theirs, to take heed unto themselves how they hear,—to “suffer the word of exhortation,” that they may “hear meekly the Word of God, receive it with pure affection, and bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.”

And now with respect to the engagements which you entered into in the Sacrament of Baptism. Your Baptismal covenant is often brought to your notice in this sacred place; and we hope you frequently make it the subject of deep meditation, and of prayer, that you may be able through God's grace to keep it.

Do you then often take up this as a separate and distinct subject, and consider well the full meaning and deep responsibility of this solemn engagement?

Many of you, my young friends, were prepared for the sacred rite of Confirmation by your late Pastor; and under his guidance and instruction took upon yourselves the solemn engagements made for you in Baptism.

Do you now bear in mind that you solemnly and publicly, before the Bishop and Congregation, pledged yourselves to renounce the devil, the world and the flesh, to believe the doctrines of the Gospel, all the Articles of the Christian Faith, and to keep God's holy will and commandments to the end of your lives? Ask then yourselves, each of you, this question, and you cannot ask yourselves a more important question—for your own sakes ask it—and in remembrance of him by whose ministrations you were brought into this state of salvation, ask it,—*Have I kept my Baptismal vow?* Have I been strenuously fighting under the banner of Christ against the enemies of my salvation? Have I been endeavouring,