

And, assuredly, it is a great and painful question, which every man in the ministry should learn to solve most unhesitatingly and conscientiously!—which every young man whose heart is at all moved towards the ministry should answer with sole and simple reference to his personal responsibility to God. By fervent prayer, by studying the Scriptures, by strict self scrutiny, by calm, patient attention to the voices and motions of the spirit of God within himself and by observing the workings of outward Providences, he may arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. For, as sure as God calls men to be his ambassadors, He furnishes them with credentials to verify their appointment, at least to their own consciousness. And this verification should be earnestly sought. Without it no man should either remain in the ministry or seek to enter it. To preach uncalled, to run without being sent, to presume to stand unbidden in Christ's stead—what is it but to be a false shepherd, a spiritual imposter? or, to use the phrase of VIXET, to “steal the ministry.” An awful sin! which cannot fail to bring a crushing anathema from Heaven on the heart of him, who through venality, or pride of talent, or carelessness, is led to its commission.

To the Editor of the *Tribune*:—SIR,—The publication of the following in the *Gospel Tribune*, should you deem it worthy, will oblige the subscriber,

N. Dumfries,
6th Dec, 1855. }

THOMAS RUTHERFORD.

THE HAPPY MAN.

“The happy man was born in the city of Regeneration, in the parish of Repentance unto life. He was educated in the school of Obedience, and now lives in the province of Perseverance, laboring with all diligence in the employment of self-denial, notwithstanding he is the possessor of a princely estate in the country of Christian contentment. In the sight of men he always appears in the plain garment of humility; but discerning spirits constantly behold him enveloped in a vesture of exquisite beauty, known to them as the robe of Christ's righteousness. His daily walks extend from the valley of self-abasement to the mountain of Heavenly mindedness. For nourishment he has meat to eat that this world knows not of: being constantly refreshed and invigorated by the sincere milk of God's Word and spiritual prayer, while bountiful supplies of Angels food and of the water of eternal life are communicated to him without money and without price. Thus happy, thrice happy, is the man who has gospel submission in his will—due order in his affection—sound peace in his conscience—sanctifying grace in his soul—real divinity in his heart—the Redeemer's yoke upon his neck—a vain world under his feet and a crown of glory over his head. Happy! truly happy is the life of such a man! To attain it, believe firmly—pray fervently—wait patiently—work abundantly—live holily—die daily;—watching your hearts—guiding your senses—redeeming your time, and, in the love of Christ, longing for glory.”

THE GOSPEL TRIBUNE.

Next number completes the *third* quarter of the second Volume of this Journal. Its first issue was 4,300 copies—a number which was sustained in all the monthly issues of the first year. The *first* and each *subsequent* issue of the second Volume, thus far, has been 6,700, and it is now found that it will be necessary to issue 8,000 copies of the *third* Volume, to meet the steadily increasing demand. These facts are stated for the information of many whose heartfelt interest in the movement entitles them to claim this utterance, and also that all may have confidence in continuing to sustain the hands of the Publisher in his onerous though pleasing labours and responsibilities.

It will be seen from the above, that each Volume is always commenced with the full number of copies expected to be necessary to supply all the subscribers obtained up to the very close of the Volume. This is done from a firm conviction, that it is for the interest of every subscriber to secure the whole of the back numbers, in every case; the work being conducted on the principle of excluding from its pages every article the utility of which is considered *short-lived* or *local*, admitting such, and such *only*, as are obviously of permanent value.

As all things, even the continuing of a dollar paper, should be done with deliberation and judgment, those who are now subscribers and have read the *Gospel Tribune* up to this date, are prepared to decide if they, and their respective households, are able to derive, annually, five shillings worth of information and comfort from its pages. If convinced of this, and not under the necessity of devoting the dollar to another object, the reason of all such subscribers, will, of course, prevent them from interdicting the monthly visits of this Journal. Subscribers who have taken the work for their families without yet having had time to satisfactorily examine its merits, are reminded of the propriety of now attending to this duty, that the question of continuing or discontinuing, may obtain with them an intelligent decision. But as, while doing the best possible to meet the reasonable expectations of all, it is probable that some will deem it a duty to discontinue the *Gospel Tribune*, as has been the case, occasionally, heretofore, it is desirable that such should know the best method of doing so, and therefore they are requested not to write a letter, as that method would require them to spend *three pence* in prepaying the postage—neither should they send back a number of the *Tribune* if it is paid for, as that method breaks the Volume; it being only necessary that they should strip off the outside leaves or cover from a number of the *Tribune*—write on it, in a plain hand, the NAME and POST OFFICE of the sender—(nothing else)—then fold it up, and tie around the same a strong thread or light cord, and mail it, addressed to the *Tribune* Office, Toronto, and nothing more is necessary—the name will be removed from the subscription list if no arrears are due. The encouragement derived, however, from the manner in which the *Tribune* is generally received, is such, as to warrant the hope, that few will deem it a duty now to order it discontinued. The terms for the third Volume will be the same as heretofore.