

wholesome opposition and criticism, a little roughing it, such as our brothers have to undergo in business life, would do them good, and develop a self-reliance and manliness that the age especially demands. Many who are very eloquent and commanding in the pulpit, when out of it, and brought face to face with the perplexities of daily life, are rather wanting in practical efficiency."

"The children of this world are often wiser in their generation than the children of light, and I suppose will be to the end. Your remarks apply, not so much to Methodist ministers, as to ministers as a class. Indeed, the former, I think, have better chances of 'roughing it' than any others, and from their frequent changes of residence and intimate contact with a greater variety of character than others, are apt to develop an unusual amount of shrewdness and ability in the management of affairs. And as for criticism, neither they nor any other ministers are likely to suffer for the want of that. I don't see, by the way, why the idea of criticism always implies that of fault-finding. It literally means judging, appreciating, approving, as well as condemning. It is as much one's duty to praise what is good as to condemn what is bad, and, I am sure, a much more agreeable one."

"What! do you mean to tell a minister you like his sermon?"

"Certainly. If it has done you good, I think it a debt you owe him to say so. However, it is only in their very callow condition that these little weaknesses you have been speaking of are observed. Most ministers, if they are men of sense, soon outgrow them, and I am sure Mr. A—— never had them."

"Unfortunately, some of them always remain callow, or become more so as they grow older."

"Nay, now, you're satirical."

"Only truthful, my dear; but it seems to me that this paragon of a gentleman has succeeded in impressing you very favourably with the itinerancy. Perhaps he would like you to share its pleasures."

"Oh dear, no. I am sure he would never think of that. He is so grave, and learned, and good; I wonder he listened so patiently to the chatter of a silly girl like me. Yet, I confess, there are some things I do understand better than he. He is a perfect