

"He never would have done it but for his Christian principle," said Mrs. Bennet. "We must not overlook that."

"No," responded Mr. Bennet, "his conscience impelled him to do to the extent of his ability according to the Scriptural rule. If young men had more conscience, they would exhibit more energy and perseverance. The first step for a young man to take is in the way of righteousness. He must become a Christian, and then, sooner or later, he will see that laziness is sin. Christ brands it as sin in His parable of the talents: 'Thou wicked and slothful servant'—wicked *because* slothful."

"Roy has had a noble aim before him," said Mrs. Bennet.

"Yes," replied her husband, "he told me once that he had an abiding conviction, the fruit, as he believed, of earnest and repeated prayer for direction as he considered the matter, that God called him to preach the gospel. He saw that there were obstacles in the way of his preparation, but he believed that if he tried to obey the call, God would help him to surmount the obstacles. He didn't hold himself back from hardship in his Master's cause, and God honoured his trust in Him; not by making his path perfectly smooth before him, but by giving him just the training and help that he needed to fit him for his work."

"Where do you think he will settle?" inquired Mrs. Bennet.

"He wants to go where there seems to be most