

to do a certain work, in a certain way; see that you do it. You are henceforth not free to choose. Beware of any mental reservation. You are a Methodist preacher, and you are bound, therefore, as long as you bear that name, clearly, and distinctly, to preach the doctrines which we profess.

The second part of your trust is *THE CHURCH*. I use this word in the widest possible sense, for by it I mean the people over whom you are placed from year to year; and by the people, I mean not only the members of Society, but all who are in any degree associated with the chapels and preaching places, in the various Circuits to which you are appointed. You were told in the ordination service that you are called "to teach, and to premonish, to feed, and to provide, for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for His children who are in the midst of this naughty world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever." For the good of these people you are to live and labour, and I want to give you a few suggestions to guide you in your work.

First, give yourself heart and soul to *the work of preaching*. As Wesleyan ministers you are called especially to be *preachers*. Some other of the Churches have an elaborate ritual, and the sermon occupies an inferior place; but it is not so with us, and I trust it never will be. In most of our chapels our modes of worship are very simple, and the success of the service depends on our power in prayer, and our power as preachers. As preachers our fathers won their position among the Churches, and as preachers we must retain it. Let it be your business to excel in this. Get into the habit of sermon-making. Keep it ever before you. Let it be your central object. Read for it; think for it; visit for it; pray for it; and make everything tributary to it. Always have a sermon on hand; don't be content with the work of the past. The itinerancy offers a strong temptation to this, and the tempta-