

would pre-eminently apply. May the good Spirit of God aid us in contemplating from the passage, the heart given to God and to the work, as the great foundation of ministerial usefulness.

The first and leading subject of thought thus presented would be the necessity of the heart being given to God by all who would labour with success in winning souls.

Now this would take us into a hidden sphere, and carry us deeper than anything which man can fully discover. The ministry is in its very nature a spiritual work; its object is to exert an influence upon the human soul and produce a change within; and before one can thus act upon another, before there can be any sufficient or adequate motive to lead one to plead with a fellow-creature regarding his eternal welfare, the heart must be entirely and unreservedly given to God. While there is much that is encouraging to-day in the circumstances with which you are sent forth—much that is calculated to fill your mind with deep and lively emotion, and on which you may reflect with advantage to your latest hour, there is beforehand a secret matter between you and your God—a preliminary question into which no previous examination can fully enter, which no friend, however familiar, can decide for you, but which you have, we trust, settled with your God. It has its appropriate prominence in our services. After all has been done during the week in the way of examination,