

sence and avenging hand checks the counsels of the wicked, and raises a protection to unsuspecting innocence more powerful than human bonds and tribunals—quicker in operation, and farther reaching in influence than a vigilant and extensive police. I shall say nothing of that spirit of refinement it breathes into society, which so greatly increases the sum of our happiness, and which, to a large extent, finds its outlet in business transactions, creating a demand for what is useful, and extending the range of imports and exports,—how it conveys, too, a beautiful spirit of amity into worldly transactions, and sheds around all social life a security and joy which could not be known but for a preached gospel, and which cannot indeed be gotten for gold or silver,—leaving all these considerations out of view as blessings indirectly flowing from a minister's pastorate, see what happiness the ministry directly pours into households. How much vice and concomitant misery it is the means of fraying away from every family who hear the gospel preached, and is thus a messenger of happiness to it eternally alone will reveal. Inform me at how much you rate the salvation of a son from the hedious pens and slaughter-houses of vice—of drunkenness—of Sabbath violation and other immoralities, and the infusion of a noble, manly, refining and elevating, heavenly training, which makes that son a useful man—an ornament to society—an honor to his father's household—a stay to declining years of parentage—a good friend, brother, citizen, husband and parent, sending forth a happy influence while living, and bequeathing to his family the attractive memorial of a good name, an example and a stimulus to his son's sons, who shall arise after him when he sleeps in the tomb? and I will tell you how much that household owes the ministry: Is it not the ministry, too, which so skilfully aids in adorning your daughters with those beautiful traits of character, such as gentleness, kindness, modesty and purity, household virtues and attractions, more precious far than robes woven in silken looms—more lovely than the fairest hues? Aye, is it not the preached gospel which has taken your

daughter from the position of a slave, and asserted and gained for her the high position which she so well graces in our modern society? And now, if the ministry be such an object for good to you, training your sons "as plants grown up in their youth, making your daughters as corner stones, polished after the similitude of the temple;" on the one hand, arresting evils which would have cast a dismal shadow over your habitations; and on the other, letting in the sunlight of heaven, with its joy and gladness,—laying the foundations of society on an immovable basis,—strengthening the bonds of trade and commerce with christian love and brotherhood,—quickenning the hand of arts, and enlarging the boundaries of science,—protecting and blessing all ranks of men. Let me hear at what rate you value all this? Setting aside the material cost of one vice, which is more expensive than many virtues, and looking along the line I have drawn, I ask every gospel hearer, How much owest thou the ministry?

And then, when grief and anguish enter the household and darken all its gladness, the father or mother, or some other dear member of that loved society, is stricken by the arrows of death, all is grief and woe, who strives most anxiously to impart relief? Who wipes off the tears of sorrow from the pale countenance? Who speaks kindest words? Who seeks to raise the burden from others, and lays it upon himself, relieving, as far as possible, others of their load of woe? Who points to true, everlasting and full consolation? Who prays for the comfortless, the widow, and the orphan? Who visits the sick and the dying—directs to the Resurrection and the Life, and opens up avenues of consolatory thought, which, but for him, would not be discovered? Need I say who? Are you to name to me gold and silver, as suitable return for all this attention and kindness? No! No!! Like its Great Author, the gospel comes to bless, and not to be blessed—to minister to, not to receive rewards. It gives infinitely more than it receives, or can receive.

But again, are not ministers foremost in