

more particularly to my young brethren. It is of the utmost importance that you should give all diligence to prepare yourselves for the efficient discharge of this most important part of your ministerial duty. The exhortations of St. Paul to Timothy, concerning his ministry at Ephesus, show us what a prominent place he assigns to the preaching of the word; in the 4th chap. of the 1st Epistle to Timothy he thus writes: "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation to doctrine, neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery, meditate on these things, give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all, take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them, for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee;" and again: "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth;" and again, in this most solemn address which we find towards the close of the 2nd Epistle: "I charge thee, therefore, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing, and his kingdom, preach the word, be instant in season, and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." From these, amongst many similar passages from the writings of the Apostles, we learn what a high value he set upon the ordinance of preaching. He evidently recognised it as God's ordinary means for the conversion of sinners, and the edification of saints. It has been well said by an able writer of our day: "Of all the methods of diffusing religion, preaching is the most efficient. It is to preaching Christianity owes its origin, its continuance, and its progress." Our blessed Lord in his last interview with his disciples, thus delivered to them their commission: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptised shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." And we read, that in compliance with this command, "They went forth and preached