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“*Will I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning.*”—Ps. 137, v. 5.

### SERMON

*By the Rev. Alex. McKay, M.A., Saultsprings,*

ON

**The Dignity of the Christian Ministry.**

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you, in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”  
—2 Cor. v. 20.

THE inspired writers give us two aspects of the Christian Ministry. The one presents the weakness of the agency employed by God to carry on the work of the ministry; the other holds forth the high and responsible position of the ministers of reconciliation. On the former view of the subject we discoursed on several occasions: we showed the weakness of the agency appointed to stand between God and man, to unfold those great truths in which the glory of the infinite God and man’s eternal interests are concerned; that we are but “earthen vessels,” the weakest of God’s intelligent creatures, fallen men, and not perfected saints, nor angels that excel in strength. It is very necessary that this view of the ministry should be well considered, both by preachers and hearers, that we may abidingly feel, should even Paul plant and Apollos water, God alone, by His Holy Spirit, giveth the increase; and in order that when any good work is accomplished through such weak instrumentality, we may ascribe all the honor to Him with whom is “the excellency of the power.”

The other aspect of the ministry we have always left in the background. I never discoursed on the dignity of the Christian Min-

istry.—“Forgive me this wrong.” For the inspired writers much more frequently urge on our attention the dignity of the ministerial office, than they refer to the meanness of the agency employed by infinite wisdom. We purpose to take up this side of the subject, and endeavor to unfold the scriptural view of the dignity of the ministry. While presenting this view, some may possibly regard us as seeking “honorable esteem” for ourselves rather than for the office. We, however, readily forego the opinion of such, while we have the precedent of the great Apostle in this matter—whenever occasion required, and while, to hold correct views of the ministry concerns the hearers much more than it affects the minister, whether they think meanly or highly of him. It is, indeed, of very essential importance to hearers of the Word to cherish and entertain high regard for this divine institution—not so much for any individual minister, as for the ministerial office. With some it is a very serious error that they centre all their esteem in one minister, and spare little or none for any other. This is to subvert the design of the ordinance—to honor the man, and dishonor the divine institution. Others, again, err in the spirit of the Jews of old, who would garnish the tombs of the prophets their fathers had put to death, and persecute those who now speak the truth to them in the name of the Lord. And usually for the same reason: when the truth, which is enforced, is supposed to disturb men’s sins, personal interest and aggrandizement. Consider,

I. The dignity of the Christian Ministry.