

be alleged, is to find successors to great preachers or otherwise eminent ministers. Such men, during a ministry of twenty or thirty years, gather round them a large sprinkling of the wealth and refinement and learning of a place; their people have been accustomed to the most mature preaching and praying; their own restless dispositions, or profound convictions, or scholarly tendencies, or gentle sensitiveness, have deferred only to great experience and spiritual power;—but now, where is the Elisha who can in such a congregation take the place of an Elijah?

Such a congregation will be remarkable for multifariousness rather than multitudinousness, and accommodating to their case the words of the King of Israel when he looked helpless on his starving people, we may say, If God do not save it, it will look in vain for help to men, eloquent or illiterate.

We understand that among our readers we number not a few students and pastors. We suppose that they have heard the complaint we are commenting on with an incredulous but good-natured smile. It is too serious, however, to be neglected. Our smaller congregations, in not a few instances, would not believe, spite of all authorities, but that their ministers could fill any position acceptably. Others are too ready to believe the worst. This latter kind, it may be feared, will begin to imagine that their teachers are, after all, only a second-rate class of men. Then they will fall away lusting, and may perish in the wilderness. For their sakes, if on no other account, let the matter receive among the Ministry prayerful consideration. Weigh yourselves in the balances, brethren. Inquire what is lacking in your ministrations, manners, and attainments, and for the sake of poor immortal souls (not for glaring position), set yourselves to supply it.

We should also rejoice if Mr. Dale were to turn his attention a little more fully to the whole subject of ministerial fitness, and let us have his views a little more at length: tell us not only that ministers are wanted, but specify those gifts and graces which must be possessed by those who fill the places the vacancy of which Mr. Dale has lamented. Mr. Dale has spoken of the matter as a growing evil; he must therefore imagine that the Ministry deteriorate. We infer from his published address (*The Holy Spirit in relation to the Ministry, the Worship, and the Work of the Church*), that he will attribute this mainly to the absence of that inspiration, which cometh only from the Spirit of God; and truly the petition is seemly, "Take not thy Holy Spirit from us."

Is it true that influential committees are often impatient of much prayer when they come together to deliberate about such matters as filling pulpits? Is it true that some leading men who are frequently applied to to recommend candidates speak emphatically about every virtue and endowment except that of personal piety? Is it true that when ministers come together for social intercourse, little time can be found for united prayer? Is it true that those important churches referred to are important everywhere except at their prayer meetings, and seek a minister from everybody but the Head of the Church Himself, besides gratifying every whim of fancy in regard to style while ignoring, as a distinct object to be gained, the glory of God?

If men are to be "inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost, we must entreat Him to move them. If they are to receive a fiery baptism from