

his plan, to go at him and keep at him. He may not know that his minister is thinking of him, but he will be pretty sure to feel before long that something is after him ; and so he must work on each member of his congregation individually. Your business is not to make Presbyterians, although I am persuaded that there are as good men in the Presbyterian Church as the world ever knew ; not to make them Methodists, though I believe the Kingdom of Heaven has been taken by storm as often by Methodists as by any other denomination ; not to make Episcopalians ; my mother was an Episcopalian, and I think she stands fully as high in Heaven as the Virgin Mary. I have a great respect for Episcopalians. Your duty is to make them men, perfect men, in Christ Jesus, and let them decide what other thing they will be ; that is of little moment. This was the work of the Primitive Church, not teaching dogmas or elaborating systems of faith, but elevating individual character, and forming all over little communities of men who had attained to a higher idea of life, purer thoughts and holier aspirations ; and men joined them not because of their creed, but for the fruits of this creed—their noble lives.

A minister should be pre-eminently a happy man, he should always wear a smile on his face, and should be so genial in his disposition that every one would love him, and the children would all wish to be ministers because he has in his heart that which will sustain happiness. Not so the sceptic. There had been in times past a scoffing infidelity, a defiant infidelity, a persecuting infidelity, and a careless infidelity ; but the infidelity of the present day was a melancholy infidelity. He had seen thoughtful men—noble natures—who could not believe, and resembled children who go away crying from home. Conscious oneness with Christ was the true foundation of happiness. He knew men so holy that he was not worthy to unloose the latchet of their shoes ; and he would willingly give all his showy qualities a thousand times over if it were possible to be as good. When I first became a minister in a poor settlement out West, I was very poor. My parents were so poor, they were only rich in one thing—plenty of children. I had no money. The very suit I wore was a second hand one which had belonged to Judge Burton, of Cincinnati. For years I had no library but my Bible, and had to gnaw at that. I was so poor that I could not take a letter out of the post office for a week because I had not 25c. to pay the postage. I had sickness in my family ; I was sick myself. Since then I have seen what the world calls better days, but I have never seen such good days. There was nothing between my soul and Christ ; I was happy ; I had bargained for hardships when I went into the ministry ; I rather desired them ; I have been in the ministry nearly forty years and have seen all phases of it, and yet have never repented for one hour my choice. If I had to begin life over again and was offered my choice of any occupation with the assurance of success in any, I would invest again in the ministry. It is the highest business—the top of all the professions. You will see your companions going ahead of you in many ways. Let them go—your wealth will be in your heart. It will last. I hope you will see some hard times. It is