

become! What harvests of promise may he not reap in the extensive fields of usefulness! What victories may he not achieve in the paths of duty! What depths may he not explore in the mines of truth! What a congregation may he not be instrumental in gathering around him, and what a cluster of jewels may he not be the means of setting in Messiah's crown! No doubt your expectations of him are high, but if you would have them realized, bear in mind that he is a young man, and, in breaking him into the work, do not break him down. The very best gifts and brightest talents may be ruined in youth by being overwrought. Perhaps your young minister may feel that he is, like Elihu, full of matter, that he is ready to burst like a new bottle full of new wine, and that he can afford to be lavish of his strength and his energy; but assist him to husband his expanding energies rather than exhaust them, and if God sees fit to spare him in the vineyard, he will yet have full opportunity to vent his accumulated store. You yourselves will feel that it is better for you and for him that he should shine with the steady lustre of a rising star than with the short-lived flash of the descending meteor. Although young, it is no disgrace to him: no man is to be despised for his youth; still, youth is lacking in experience, and it is all the better by being propped up by the counsels of age. If he should do anything that you would characterize as rash or inconsiderate, do not take offence at it, but remember that the best are liable to err, and young men especially. Impetuosity is a characteristic of youth.

III. *Remember that he is a minister.* He has been set apart to the service of God. He has denied himself all those spheres in which earthly fame and advantage may be obtained, and consecrated himself to the living God. And he who has done this ought at least to command respect. In this country, where so many try their hand at preaching, and do it after a sort, this respect which is due to the minister, who has been solemnly ordained to the office, is too frequently overlooked. It is quite common to hear the remark, "A minister is no better than any other man." It is true, and I have been urging you to remember that he is only a man, but he is a man set apart for a sacred purpose: he is "a steward of the mysteries of God." For his work's sake, and for his Master's sake, he ought to be respected; Christ's teaching is that whatsoever is done to his servants he regards as done to himself. The ancient Jews seemed to have more respect for those who were set apart to a sacred office than what the men of our day have. When Saul, who had been seeking the life of David, unwittingly fell into his hands, and his followers wished him to make an end of him, David's reply was a memorable one: "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed; to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord." David taught a lesson here to all time, that we should ever consider the consecrated as sacred. "Touch not mine anointed," says God, "and do my prophets no harm." Not that you need to be cautioned against personal violence, but against the use of that weapon that cuts keener and deeper than the sword—that unruly member, the tongue. Do not inflict blows upon him with this weapon. Against him let not even a dog move its tongue; and while you respect him yourselves, train your children to reverence him too.

IV. *Remember that he is your minister.* It was your own earnest request that he should become your minister. He was here preaching on trial, and had left; and if you had not sent for him, he would never have troubled you again. Since he has come at your call, and you can claim