

fied. My reverend brethren, are there not many present who have felt this difficulty, and whilst endeavouring to concentrate the mind on heavenly things, and considering how best to make full proof of his Ministry, the idea would force itself of pecuniary difficulty, and the wants of those dear to him drag his thoughts down from heaven to earth? Again, there is the knowledge that life is fast passing away, eternity is near, sinners are dying, and the heart-searching question must often be put, "Have any of my flock, who I might have warned and did not warn, passed without the knowledge of Christ into the unseen world?" And when committing to the grave the remains of a departed brother or sister, the thought will rightly obtrude itself, "Has the departed gone before his God fitted for that awful presence? and if not, am I free from blood guiltiness?"

Once more turn we to the lambs of Christ's flock; by baptism regenerated and grafted into Christ's body, the Church—the hope of the Church—yet as they grow up exposed to temptations, the manifold allurements of the world, the flesh, and the devil, the Minister's heart yearns over them that they may grow in grace as they grow in stature. Yet how often do the very parents by precept and example counteract the means used for their good; or when they stand before the Bishop to renew the solemn vow and covenant made in their name at their baptism, how many of whom the Minister hoped might be his crown and joy at the last day, after a time forget their vows, and turn back to the world; and their teacher with sorrow goes to his God with the words of the Prophet, "Lord, who hath believed our report?"

In adopting and seeking to carry out the words of text there is not only difficulty but individual danger. "Take heed to thyself," was the charge of St. Paul to his beloved son in the faith. "I keep under my body and bring it into subjection," saith the same apostle, "lest by any means when I have preached to others I myself be a castaway." "Son of man," said God to the Prophet Ezekiel, "When I say to the