

of princes, was the office which he sustained and the commission he held, but proportioned were the solemn and awful responsibilities thereby incurred. "Knowing the terrors of the Lord we persuade men, Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel." To this he was called, and to this work, by his own deliberate choice, his life and strength, and all his powers were devoted; and so unspeakably great were the interests suspended on his fidelity to his engagement, that he feels and admits the heaviest curse to be his due, should he prove remiss or unfaithful in the trust accepted. Such were the views entertained by this, the most eminent of the servants of Christ. And while the dignity, which he loved to think of and to magnify, remains in all its magnitude, investing with honor, higher far than the highest distinctions of earth, every minister of Christ, it is as certainly true that the solemn responsibilities which caused even Paul to tremble, are not in the smallest measure abated. Every true minister of Christ has been called by God, to this office, as certainly as the Apostle was, not indeed in the same remarkable way, but yet by means as undoubted. And while this is so, it is at the same time true, that no minister of Christ had ever to complain, that against his wish or will, he was forced to undertake this work. It was, in every case, the result of his own deliberate choice. After being charged to count the cost, and after a full view of all its responsibility and difficulties, he, by his own will and choosing, accepted the trust, and with it, all the consequences attached to fidelity or neglect. The minister of Christ is thus pledged and consecrated by his own act to one great work. And so important is the commission given, that in the faithful fulfilment of it, under God, are suspended the salvation and happiness of the whole world. The countless millions who tread, and shall tread the earth, must hear this message and understand it, or otherwise miserably perish. With the authority of Christ commanding diligence, and the love of Christ urging onward, when there is added the cries of the perishing, the ravages of death, dragging into its dark and insatiable depths, myriads unprepared to die, will there not be felt a power and a motive to stimulate dili-

gence and secure fidelity? But, if all this be not sufficient, there is still another consideration which must not be forgotten. If the ambassador is unfaithful and withholds the treasure, which Christ has placed in his hands, or mingles with it any preparation of his own making, whether that unfaithfulness shall be the ruin of others, many or few, there is one whose doom is certain. The Spirit of God has divested of all uncertainty the guilt incurred by him who would substitute, whatever else, for the message entrusted to him, and which he is charged faithfully to deliver.

In further enlarging, we shall first direct your attention to the character of this message, which, under such dread penalty, Paul declared he must preach. Of this he speaks in no doubtful language. It is the Gospel of Christ. This he must continue to preach. He dare not add to, or take from it, nor make any change. The Apostle was possessed of high attainments in the literature and philosophy of his day, but these were not included in the trust placed in his hands. It was the Gospel alone, and all else, his great learning and his extensive stores of knowledge, were to be employed to explain and simplify and enforce the truths he was commissioned to proclaim. Here the highest attainments find their legitimate work, and one which will call into requisition all their resources. While the attempt must not be made to adorn the Gospel, by human aids and devices, the highest cultivation and learning are required to unfold its wonders and to secure attention to its claims. To this most willingly did the great Apostle devote all the high attainments, which many years of diligent labor had secured to him. He had a message to proclaim. It was direct from God, and so wonderful, so precious, and yet so difficult to believe, that he felt his need of more, than all the resources and all the ability he possessed, in order to declare it. "Who is sufficient for these things?" The whole world had fallen, was deep in misery and woe and wretchedness. And the dark shadow of death was stretched over every dwelling of man. Old and young were perishing. Sin dragged the whole race into this misery, crushed their strength, and held them as its prey, ready to deliver them over to