

writers until you have mastered every detail of expression. Your familiarity with Scripture may be a standing wonder. But you may only be repeating a dull lesson learned by rote. Not until you can say I have seen Him, I have walked with Him in quiet and in storm I know whom I have believed, not until you can tell what is in your heart and not merely what is in your head, will your testimony to Christ cause them to believe.

And you, my brethren of the laity, who hear me and who represent this morning God's people everywhere, do you not feel a solemn duty laid upon you? You hear what is the duty of a presbyter in the Church of God. You see what a difficult work it is, and what complete consecration it demands. It is utterly unlike any secular calling. The ambitions that control and have full scope there must here be suppressed; the aims that lure men there to success, lure them here to failure and disaster. Talent, energy, opportunity will not do it. It is "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." On you therefore is laid a heavy responsibility. You can do much. If the clergy mould the laity, the laity in turn mould the clergy. Out of a worldly, degraded laity it is hard to raise up a spiritual clergy. You can stretch out a helping hand, as you can hang a millstone about the neck. Oh, see that you never hold out a false ambition to a minister of God, never ask him to play a part not laid on him by God. Strive to lighten his burden, and not increase it, and above all remember him before the throne of grace as I ask you now to remember those who are to be ordained this morning.

THE MINISTER'S WIFE.

Much has been written and spoken on the subject of "the minister's wife," but there is too often a lack of common sense in the treatment of this subject. The simple fact seems to be overlooked in some congregations that when the minister marries a woman he does so as a man and not as an official. This is his private affair, with which an outsider has no business to intermeddle. A number of years ago a prominent clergyman, who was on the eve of marrying his second wife, was waited upon by his deacons and informed of their objections to the choice he had made. He heard what they had to say, and