

deeper truths of Revelation, is honoring the God of nature and grace.

---

MONDAY CONFERENCE.—January 31st. Address by the Rev. L. H. Jordan, B. D., pastor of Erskine church, on the subject of the "Choice of the First Field of Labor."

The choice of the first field is indeed a momentous one. It is said by some that the probationer is not embarrassed with an abundance of choices. But this is not altogether correct, you have already a very wide choice. The first is between the foreign and the home fields, this comes with peculiar force at this time, and should be decided by each before leaving college; so long as you leave it undecided, you are not realizing the responsibility laid on you, your training ought to give you an ample breadth of view, there should be a type of thought as wide as the Bible. If this be true with respect to those in Christ, it is no less true with respect to those not in Christ. Your field is the world. If we see any part of the world in need, and which we can serve, distance or difficulty is not going to excuse us. You should decide in reference to the Foreign Field before you consider the Home Field, for the heathen have not that light which all in the home field may have if they will only take it; workers in the foreign field were never more wanted than to-day, if you ever felt it press on you before, it is more urgent now. Other colleges

are forming college-missions. May not this college take part in this beneficent work?

But all cannot go to the foreign field, those of you who decide for the home field, though you have limited your choice very much, have still a wide range. It is a question whether the first field of work shall be in a country charge or a city charge, in a large or a small one. Were I to advise I would prefer a comparatively large to a small, a city to a country charge, one's temperament and natural ability must be considered. A man who commences his ministerial labors in a small charge often deprives himself of those stimulating influences which otherwise would have been a spur to him. Better the strain which such a position puts on him than the temptation into action and sluggishness.

But if you prefer a city pastorate you must prefer a shorter one at the beginning. But that I hold to be no matter. A young man, at least, should not settle down in a city charge as if it were going to be a lasting one.

In a first pastorate a man is obliged to give more attention to regular congregational work than the proper education of his own mind would admit. But there are many advantages in a second charge. The minister, as a man, wants to grow, he wants to expand his own mind; to accomplish this he must engage in work different from his ordinary routine, and this his former pastoral experience enables him to do.