

home and congregation, one should fall into indolent and aimless habits of reading. A minister should give evidence of progress and growth to the end of his life. After he has spent a few years in a parish he should be a better preacher and theologian than at the beginning of his pastorate. He should know Theology and Church History and other subjects bearing upon his work better than when he left the Theological Seminary. But how often do we find that the field of History in a minister's thought becomes an almost unknown land and too often the same may be said in regard to other subjects. No better examples of arrested development can be found than many of our ministers. There is for them no progress, no growth. They conquer no new fields. Too often they fail in retaining the territory they had secured or they allow it to be smothered with weeds of indolence and confusion. And yet few callings give such splendid scope for research and study. In few callings is the reward of industry more certain or more bountiful. The minister is the expounder and enforcer of truth, and all truth being of God, can be made tributary to his work. The truth resulting from the labors and sufferings of the best men of all ages is before him. The use he makes of this will in a large measure determine the wealth and power of his life. Faithful here, he will come to his people from week to week having the smell of his garments like the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed, having a message fresh from the fountain of truth, a message that will be startling because of its freshness and simplicity.

The arrested development of many ministers is due not to neglect of reading, but to desultory, aimless reading, to reading that takes no hold upon a man's life. There is danger that we should fence in too large an area for cultivation, and that we should fail to cultivate any part profitably. By trying to get too much we lose all. We become mere readers instead of being students of the great works we possess. Reading may be a recreation. It is not always study, but it may become a dangerous recreation, as it is apt to make unlawful