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WORN OUT.

The other day a clergyman who had served his people for a long span of years and who had never spared himself in their service was obliged to give up his pastorate because he had lost his voice. Otherwise in splendid health, his larynx was diseased and he had to rest. Physical conditions could not be overcome.

There are clergymen, however, who work on year after year, although their ailment is not perceptible save to themselves. Their voice is good and strong, their utterances are charged with force and fire. Yet they are worn out all the same, and their people do not know it, and do not wish to know it. It is their heart which is outworn and out of the heart are the tissues of life.

Who cares for the minister's heart? He is but an actor who must play his part to the end. He is only a drummer to push the sale of the congregation's wares and demolish its rival on the next block. He is only the employee of every member and must submit to their dictation. What has he to do with a heart?

How does a minister's heart become worn out, although he gives no sign? When his dreams are unrealized, his hopes disappointed and his people, after long years of patient effort and soulful aspiration, remain dull and leaden. Shutting their eyes they discern no beauty; closing their ears they fail to hear the divine harmonies. They clamor for signs and wonders, but they will not learn to seek the miracle within themselves and gain Sinai's crest by self-surrender and self-control. And the minister, whose duty is to open the eyes of the blind and stroke off the bonds that hold captive, even his patience is not without limit and his heart not of stone.

Sometimes when your minister fails to display the freshness and activity which you first admired in him, and you are beginning to be dissatisfied and talk about the need of fresh blood in the pulpit, consider whether you yourselves, most mighty potentates, are not to blame. What have you done to give your preacher heart? Do you think the money you pay him the only compensation he requires? It is easy to erect a tombstone—although even that is too much of a task for some congregations which have worn out a faithful pastor. It is more difficult to crown him in his life time by making him feel that his work is not in vain. The dumb brute will respond to a caress and tug at his work with fresh vigor. And would you deny your minister sympathy and encouragement until his heart be worn out?—Editorial in Jewish Messenger.

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