

surely for their encouragement that others are presented along with them, who have put their hand to the plough, and would still go forward—who have essayed the work, and, after a period of trial, would now appear to testify that they serve a good and gracious Master—that they have felt enjoyment in His service, and are anxious to devote to it their lives. There ought to be something cheering to the very youngest, in the presence of others who come to renew and ratify their former pledges, while a sympathy must surely be felt by such as have purchased to themselves a good degree towards those who step in to occupy their places, and to fill up the probationary rank which our Church has so wisely retained.

The combination may, it is true, increase a little the difficulty of the preacher, in selecting his topics of address and making it exactly suitable for those at the very outset of their ministry, and those who have already tasted of its pleasantness, and, I must add, of its weighty responsibilities. Yet to both I trust that the words chosen may not be without profit. To all men, indeed, without any distinction of class, the voice of God appeals through the wise king, "My son, give me thine heart;" but if there be any whose portion is peculiarly the Lord, and who are in measure removed from the cares and business of life and separated to the sanctuary, to them surely the words of the royal preacher