

tive expression, the harrowing in of the good seed after sowing. To be done aright it requires, like everything else, thought and prayer. Adaptation to circumstances of time and place must be taken into account and employed. A long-winded sermon or anything approaching to cant should be sedulously guarded against. Regularity and system are of great importance in carrying on the work. A stereotyped form is unwise. A venerable brother, among us once at our association meeting, said if in his visit he found a farmer at his plough, he went alongside of him, talking as he went on with his work. We must conform to the evident necessities of each case, although in this country we are never likely to find such a one as that of a minister who called on a weaver, but in the clatter of his loom could not speak to be heard, nor could get him so much as to turn his face to him. At last he was asked, "How much do you make by a day's work?" "About three and six-pence." "Well, that will be about four pence half-penny an hour; there is the price of an hour's work, and now let me have a little talk with you; there is sixpence and, I'll take out the change in a few moment's talk some other time." The minister says, "I assure you I not only found him willing enough, but he leapt out of his frame with nimbleness when I called on him again." Our success and the evokement of deep feeling are almost certain, if, previous to the call, the particular case of the family or individuals in it has been made a subject of special prayer. When properly conducted, we set a high value, therefore, on pastoral visitation, and in order to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance, we now proceed to notice some of the advantages arising from it.

1. *It promotes an adequate personal acquaintance with the people.* Old priestcraft may find its account in keeping the people at arm's length, but the Christian shepherd, from the benignity and love of the system he is devoted to promote, will seek out the flock. Visitation on the part of a state-paid clergy has sometimes been conducted with an air of lordly authority designed to make the people feel the greatness of the invader of their homes. Such a spirit is foreign to the meek and lowly pattern of the Good Shepherd who calleth His sheep by name and leadeth them out. They hear His voice and they follow Him. There is much in cordiality of manner and manly bearing to win the confidence of those committed to our charge. Friendly calls are desirable; nor should a people grudge the relaxation to a minister arising from friendship. A correct type of a pastoral visit is something more than a formal call; for it to degenerate into mere gossiping and empty talk were an unmitigated calamity. Let it take the higher object of becoming acquainted with the character, wants and habits of each member of the congregation. An insight into human nature will thereby be furnished, affording many hints for sermons and bringing up topics for elucidation in public. To some minds the experiences thus revealed become an inexhaustible mine and a source of great usefulness. Many are reached through the study of the heart, and human nature and experience, rather than through "the study of books." A know-