

changeably the same amid all vicissitudes, directs our footsteps and fixes the bounds of our habitations, reciprocate our cordial God-speed, and part with an affectionate farewell.

Of all the ties which, under Providence, bind human beings together, there can be none more sacred and, important, and, rightly formed, none more endearing than that of a pastor to his flock; and, whatever be the views we entertain or the feelings we cherish respecting it, the dis severing of that tie is a matter of most serious concernment to all parties interested. It constitutes a relation which should never be hastily or lightly formed, and, once consummated, nothing but a sense of imperative obligation should ever be permitted to interfere with it. Whether we consider the nature of his office or the Divine ordinance by which it is appointed in the church, or the object for which it exists, or the everlasting results for good or evil which are accomplished by it, it is only when a minister, with simplicity and singleness of aim, stands upon the high ground of pure and obvious duty, that he is justified in entertaining the thought of changing the sphere of his labours. No pleasing dream of prospective ease, no hope of gratifying a selfish desire, no mere ambition to occupy a higher place or exercise a greater influence, will warrant a step so full of importance and so fraught with responsibility. But still in any case, and certainly not the less in that case in which a carefully formed and deliberate