

his keenest trials and temptations. These, in his case, must be hidden. He has not been sent to a circuit to excite sympathy, but for to sympathize with, and comfort and encourage others. Now, whatever tries his graces, or weakens his faith, or damps his zeal, must be a sore temptation. He may have no temptation to outward sin, to disbelieve his religion, or abjure his Saviour ; but he may become gloomy, question his call to the ministry, and become languid and inert in the discharge of his duties. He may be led to question the piety of many in the church, and have the mantle of charity torn to shreds, and behold in vision too distinct the faults and shortcomings of those to whom he is called to minister ; and if not possessed of the spirit of wrath, may have that of bitterness and distrust. Instead of doing his work cheerfully and in hope, he may become gloomy and despondent. Let these constantly or frequently occur, and I ask is such a man any longer fit for the work of the ministry ; and yet has he not strong temptations to lead him to such a state of mind and such a course of thought and inaction. His public life is imposing, it has a certain elevation, and is important in the truest sense, but it is attended with difficulties and temptations. How few feel grateful to him, or his Master ! It is patronizing him to hear him preach. That sermon which cost him much labour, and is really full of pith and meaning, yet, because the preacher has not every perfection of the orator, has not a voice of fullness and sweetness, is scarcely heard, much less appreciated. When did you last see a brother meet his minister at the foot of the pulpit, and thank him for his sermon ; that it was a source of spiritual profit to him,—“But, Sir,” they say, “it would make him proud.” Yes, many wish to keep the minister humble,—they pray for it, and labor to effect it ; and it is strange that he is the only person they suspect of being easily affected by it. They likewise fear the influence of money, lest he should become proud and arrogant ; so on some of our circuits our ministers are midway between living and starving. His position in society has a necessary respectability ; but to maintain it by necessary accompaniments is the difficulty. Fault is found, if he and his family, his travelling equipage, and his furniture, are not respectable. He is not allowed to dress like others, and yet he is expected to do all, pass through the life as if he had the emoluments of a professional man, with scarcely the wages of a good mechanic, or, as they would say in your country, “live like a gentleman.” Now, of all kinds of poverty, this genteel poverty is the most trying, and most to be deprecated. And on the other hand, if he succeeds in maintaining his position,—and as to externals, is respectable—how often do we hear it said, he dresses better