

gospel often excites disgust, and we become the enemies of those hastening to eternal ruin, because we tell them the truth. Thus the most faithful and friendly warnings may call forth in regard to the minister language like that of the King of Israel toward the man of God "I hate him for he never prophesieth good concerning me but evil." The arduous nature of the work is enhanced by that diversity of character, and situation, which prevails among those whom we are called upon to address. To the several classes it is necessary rightly to divide the word of truth, so as to give to each his portion of meat in due season, to present such discriminating characteristics that each individual may know where to place himself. Some must be appalled and subdued by the terrors of the Lord, while others are to be drawn by the cords of love. Some we must strike with fear, on others we must have compassion, making a difference.

2. *It is a very solemn and responsible work.* It is a work connected with mind and heart, and with the undying souls of men. It is the message of reconciliation—the promulgation of that truth designed to renew the world and sanctify the Church. The bare mention of such a work suggests its awful importance and solemnity. The Christian minister is but a steward of the mysteries of the King of Kings, who has faithfully to dispense from those stores which infinite wisdom and bounty, have provided. Such being his position, he must render a clear account of himself, and of his work to God. The Most High will reckon with him. The blood of souls, should he be faithless, will be required at his hand. And this again reminds you that the interests of those who hear, and of him who ministers, are inseparably involved. If his account be given in with grief, O ! how ruinous, how unprofitable, for you.

3. *It is a divine work.* The Christian Minister is qualified for his work by the Lord. The great object of it is the glory of Emmanuel. His success in it is from God, and his final reward, the Lord the righteous judge will bestow. The gospel dispensation is preeminently the dispensation of the Spirit, and the spread of the Gospel is thus preeminently the work of the Lord. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." Hence, preachers of the Gospel are dependent for their success, not on their own efforts merely. They are only instruments through whom a supernatural agency is exerted. To this great truth the inspired historian of the Acts everywhere directs our attention as alone sufficient to account for the signal success which crowned the labours of the first preachers. If a great multitude at Antioch believed it was because "the hand of the Lord was with them"; if Lydia hearkened to the things spoken by Paul, it was because "God opened her heart." A Paul might plant, and an Apollos might water, but it was God who gave the increase.

II. *The obvious duty of the Church towards the preacher of the Gospel—that he may be with you without fear.* Amongst many other duties that may be noticed are the following :

1. *Supply his pecuniary wants, and see that he be with you without fear, in regard to his temporal support.* This is generally regarded as a very delicate topic for the pulpit, the reason for which I am at a loss to understand, since few things are more plainly exhibited in Scripture, than the mode in which the Kingdom of Christ is to be supported and extended in the world. It is alluded to at present not only because it is necessarily contained in the text, but because the discharge of your obligations in this matter is necessary, in order that your minister may rightly discharge his, and it is not enough that this duty be discharged, but from right principles. You have promised the man of your choice "due subsistence in the Lord," and this is due him by the law of God upon the subject, by your own positive engagements, and as a testimony of love to him for services of the most interesting and important kind. His claim is accordingly urged in Scripture upon a principle of acknowledged