

on board three ships in like circumstances. In one or two instances, the crews were said to be "rough characters." I never, however, received an uncivil word from any of them; on the contrary, I was always treated most courteously. Jack is not insensible to kindness. The Lord grant that many of the crews of whom I have spoken above, may, through eternity, bless the Lord for his mercy and grace.

HINTS TO CONGREGATIONS.

BEING AN ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERS OF B—— CHURCH, AT THE
ORDINATION OF MR. M——.

It has come to be a custom, at ordinations and inductions, to address, first, the minister, and then the people, concerning their duties. But, after listening to the solemn ordination vows, I do not know that it is absolutely necessary. Still, according to use and wont, and the arrangement of Presbytery, the newly settled pastor has been addressed, and it now falls to my lot to say a word or two to the congregation. To suppose that you, the members and adherents of this church, are completely ignorant of your duty to your pastor, would be to insult the intelligence of the nineteenth century. All that I have to do, then, is to throw out a few suggestions as remembrancers; and, in doing so, I will not weary your patience with the length of my remarks.

I. *Remember that he is a man.* It is not an angel, but a man, that has been settled amongst you to-day. He comes to you—not with an angelic, but with a human nature, subject to the same weaknesses as yourselves. He has to live in the same way as you do, from one year's end to another. He is as susceptible to kindness as any of you, and indifference will wither up his soul as much as it would yours. Being a man, he can perform only a man's work; if you expect more of him you will be disappointed. Like all other human beings, before he can speak well he has to study. Good sermons do not come by intuition; they are the result of hard study, and no one can study if he is incessantly on the run of visitation. The social visit may be agreeable to both you and your pastor, but when he has to make up for it by a consumption of the midnight oil, he is curtailing both his usefulness and his life; or rather, his congregation, either through kindness or forgetfulness, is doing it for him. Do not expect that he can always give you sermons sparkling with rich and original thoughts. It is not in human nature to do this. Even the intellectual Samsons are not always strong. It is only at times that the Spirit of the Lord moves them in the camp of Dan. The ague or a headache can shear them of their locks of strength any week, and make their pulpit performances fall below mediocrity. For a congregation to find fault with its pastor in such circumstances, would be for it to accuse him of being human. Nevertheless, congregations as a general thing make small allowances for this large chapter of drawbacks, but expect the preacher, when Sabbath comes round, to speak with the eloquence and power of a Paul "in the midst of Mars' hill." If there are some days that you have to be at the post of duty when you do not feel like being behind the counter or out on the farm, do you not think it is possible there may be some Sabbaths in which the minister appears in the pulpit, when he feels like anything else than preaching. Never forget, then, that he is flesh and blood.

II. *Remember that he is a young man.* There is always a halo of expectation thrown around a young man. A young man! What may he not