

God who made us. Shall responsibility then turn him back, who would dedicate himself to God's service upon earth? Nay rather let him "look unto the recompence of the reward."* Shall we not be willing to meet all the consequences of "feeding the flock of God, (taking oversight thereof, not lording it over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock,)" in the hope that "when the Chief Shepherd shall appear we may *receive a crown of glory* that fadeth not away."† It is no contemptible motive, in the resurrection, when they that sleep in the dust shall awake to everlasting life or else to shame and everlasting contempt, to "*shine (then) as the brightness of the firmament, or as the stars for ever and ever.*"‡

Grant all that can be objected; the work of the "ministry of reconciliation" is a great and glorious work, a work worthy of the noblest ambition. It is written in the Scriptures that "the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance, which glory was to be done away. If, (adds the Apostle,) the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory."§ Or, to return more immediately to my text, is not that a great and glorious and wonderful office, which, executed in CHRIST's behalf, is unto God a "savour of life unto life, or of death unto death?" Is it not an honour indeed to be counted like our Divine LORD, who "gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour?"||

Let us take again another view, and the Ministerial Office will further appear to be an honourable and glorious office. We are separated from the rest of our brethren into a distinct order. For what purpose? Our work is the completing of that edifice, which is "built upon Apostles and Prophets, JESUS CHRIST Himself being the

* Heb. xi. 26.

† 1 Pet. v. 2. 3. 4.

‡ Dan. xii. 2. 3.

§ 2 Cor. iii. 7.-9.

|| Eph. v. 2.