

my general duties will permit me to labor constantly—as indeed I was free to state to them when requested to engage more fully as a speaker. It was problematical in my own mind from the beginning whether I could remain in the field even one half of the year.

But, my dear brother, will you permit me to unite with others in inducing you to continue in the Lord's harvest field in which you have been lately engaged. Will you allow me to speak words of encouragement to enlist your sympathies so that you will not say *No* to the invitation of our brethren whom we love for the sake of Him who loved us all.

It is not the importance of the work—it is not the need of laborers—it is not the pressing demands of the times for gospel light and truth—it is not any of these concerning which I am seated to address you; for all these are generally acknowledged, and by yourself well and truly appreciated. But it is rather to say that is *your duty* at this time, in view of the past, the present, and the future, to surmount all difficulties and put your hand to the plow without looking back. I shall suppose you have four strong objections—1st, The brethren need you at Dorchester. 2nd, A feeling that others are better qualified. 3rd, That a better laborer can be procured. 4th, Pre-arranged affairs at home demand attention. Now if I remove half of these obstacles, I presume you will remove the others—that is to say, that you and I will share alike and be co-workers in removing mountains!

I would state then, first, that so far as the good brethren in Dorchester are concerned, they are willing to make sacrifices for the common cause. I hear them testimony that they are liberal and self-denying, and I know that brothers Bentley, Whittemore, Crane, Clayton, Ballah, and others will perform their part in keeping up the weekly meetings for a few months while brother Sheppard travels and tells poor wanderers that Jesus asks them to his house, which is large, to find rest with him and his rich fulness. Do not say that the brethren will not let you go, for if you say it is duty, they will believe you, and hence even more than *let*—they will *send* you. This therefore leads me to touch upon the duty of your engaging—yes, *your duty*. You have not in truth one word to say about not being qualified, for if brother Sheppard be recommended by twelve inspired and as many uninspired men, he will not only be in the minority in saying *No*, but evidently insist that his own judgment is better than the whole twenty-four. You see it at once—will you then “walk by faith?” Say Yes, and I know you will keep your word!

But again, what other laborer can be procured? Brother Jones is again in New York state. Brother Anderson is out of the field from *principle*—his reasons being found in the June Number of the *Christian Banner*, embraced in the Report for the co-operating churches. Brother Kilgour, at present, has aged relations to honor and care for, and I rather opine he has scruples about the co-operation similar to brother Anderson. Brother Scott has always declined leaving his family—thinking it duty to train them up for the Lord. Brother Trout, who would make a good preacher, is not to be obtained for various reasons valid both to himself and others. Brethren Parkinson,