

the hostility of those who refuse to assist ; it is the suspicion of self-seeking, the hint that those taking part in it are moved by other aims than the sole public good. Let there be any ground for supposing that this activity is inspired by selfishness, even by the desire for influence or the vain ambition of popular applause, and the man fails, and deserves to fail, as surely as if he were moved by mere greed of gain. And there is a more subtle kind of self-seeking that may tempt a minister who might be above any personal meanness, what might be called denominational selfishness, the desire to have his own church or congregation stand higher in public esteem, as the fountain whence issues this work for the general good. This ecclesiastical self-seeking is not unknown, this urging some work as a public boon when it is likely to bring grist to an ecclesiastical mill. But when any such effort is detected, of course it evokes the denominational rivalry of others, and so tends to injure good citizenship. We should be able to step outside of our denominational lines and limits, to greet as fellow citizens the members of other communions as cordially as we greet the members of our own, to invite their co-operation or to offer them ours in the public enterprises that should engage the energies of all.

This does not imply less loyalty to our own Church any more than patriotism implies less love to our own family. Rather, it implies a fuller possession of the spirit of that Gospel which all ministers of Christ are called to preach and all citizens are called to practice. We may meet those who do not share this broader spirit nor enjoy this wider outlook, but let us, at least, recognise our own obligations to the community as well as to the congregation, to the state as well as to the Church. We shall be all the better citizens when we strive to discharge in full the claims made upon us as Christian ministers, and we shall be all the more effective ministers for Christ, the more that we seek, in His unselfish spirit, to fulfil as loyal citizens, the claims that our country has upon us.

(Dr. Gordon closed with a few appropriate words of farewell to the graduating class.)