

to remove. And now before I conclude this address, let me not fail to point out to you the duties which seem to be peculiarly incumbent on the clergy at the present crisis of our affairs.

Trial, my brethren, brings out of each man whatever of good or evil is in his nature. It is the fire that reveals the dross, consumes the stubble, and purifies the gold. It is certain, therefore, that this fire of our trial, will manifest to ourselves and others, the depth or the shallowness of our characters, the reality or the unreality of our minds. More seriousness, more devotion to our work, more private and more public prayer, seem specially required of us; not prayer by fits and starts, with a frantic and spasmodic violence; not prayer for unity, whilst we practice disunion; not exhortations to holiness, whilst we disparage and devour one another; not a love of fault-finding, not a "binding of heavy burdens grievous to be borne;" not a captious and litigious spirit, not the selfish cry, that the "weakest must go to the wall," the poorer clergy are to be sacrificed, while the better provided look on with indifference, but an earnest, simple-hearted desire to promote the general good, which must commend itself to all loyal members of our Church, and for the rest, calm trust in God. "He will deliver us in six troubles, yea in seven there shall be no evil touch thee."

It is necessary for us all to recollect that the trial through which we are passing demands from us an increase of theological learning. It is, no doubt, hard for a missionary in this province, labouring amongst a population so scattered, to devote a regular portion of his time to study. The calls upon him are both incessant and irregular, and if he could find time, he may allege that he cannot find means to purchase books. Much assistance, however, has been given you in this respect, by the foundation of our Cathedral library, and by the establishment of deanery libraries, through the liberality of the associates of Dr. Bray. I could wish that the clergy who are not living at a great distance from Fredericton, made more use of the Cathedral library. But I fear that the ephemeral publications which engender a perpetual craving after ordinary news, most sadly interfere with our love of solid reading. Unquestionably, you cannot be sound interpreters of Holy Scripture, you cannot inform and raise the minds of your people, you cannot be prepared to meet the objections raised everywhere to Holy Scripture, and to the liturgy of our Church: you cannot, in short, be wise and faithful dispensers of God's holy Word, unless you are careful and diligent students. And a right understanding of the Scriptures involves so many questions of exegetical criticism, of geography and history, and of doctrinal accuracy, that you expose yourselves to the contempt of mankind around you, if you are wholly ignorant of these things. It is of no use to declaim against the spirit of the age, or to fancy yourselves raised into a position superior to such considerations; the age will reason, will criticize, will advance, whether we will or no, and we must endeavour to keep pace with its advances, as far as they are in a right