

close to the most ignorant hearers the mysteries of the gospel ; to "bring forth out of the treasure things new and old". Not only must vice be denounced and virtue commended, but the minds of our congregations should be *informed*. Many are so circumstanced that they are mainly dependent on their minister for instruction.—The office of *teacher* is thus blended with his other duties.—Rightly to supply this demand, requires a great draft upon his time. Severe mental labour must be endured. He has to investigate, compare subjects with subjects, explore, dig deep, and inwardly digest ; then he needs all the command of language and facility of speech which nature has given him, (for without communicative talent, no man is fit to be a minister,) to sustain him in his high calling. He has the sinner to convince, alarm, and persuade ; he has the lambs to feed, nourish, and protect ; he has the feeble to confirm, encourage, and strengthen ; the church must be built up and edified ; and he has to watch over the souls of those for whom he must give an account. The most consummate fidelity to his master will be expected. There must be no flinching when duty calls. He may well employ the language of the poet—

" Shall I, for fear of feeble man,
The Spirit's course in me restrain ?
Or, undismay'd in deed and word,
Be a true witness of my Lord ?

" Shall I, to sooth th' unholy throng,
Soften thy truth, or smooth my tongue,
To gain earth's gilded toys, or flee
The cross endured, my Lord, by thee ?

Never did a warrior go forth to battle in need of greater courage than the minister of the cross requires in delivering the message of his master. He is bound to "declare all the counsel of God."

But public preaching is a small part of the minister's duties. He has the *ordinances to administer* ; as baptism, matrimony, and the sacrament of the Lord's supper.—Let no man deem these trifling. They are all of a serious nature, and require to be seriously observed. They of course vary in magnitude with the extent of a man's charge ; but every ordained minister must attend to them more or less. Much also depends upon the *manner* in which they are administered. If this is what it should be, they will be made a blessing to all concerned. They are "holy things" which the minister is called upon to deal with.

There are also many things in the *relations and necessities of the church* which engage the minister's attention. He is identified with the benevolent institutions of the age. Bible, tract, and temperance societies, and all associations having in view the amelioration of the human family, demand his aid. Much of his time is occupied with their calls. He must likewise consider the condition of the poor, the sailor, the prisoner, the ignorant, the de-