

which is struggling through them to your soul, but lovingly, faithfully and sympathetically endeavoring to discover in the poorest sermon some word that will help and cheer and comfort. And in your life, being "living epistles, known and read of all men" and thus strengthening the messenger, who feels thereby that the message has found a home and welcome.

III. THE PRIESTS ARE STEWARDS.

"Stewards of the mysteries of God." "Moreover, it is required in a steward that a man be found faithful." The ancient steward had committed to his care certain gifts and riches for the good of the servants. They were not to be used for his own pleasure or profit. He must rule wisely and well over the household, distributing to each the particular food that was needed. And when his master returned, he must render a faithful account of his stewardship. Do you not see the force and beauty of this figure as applied to the priesthood? Oh! the ineffable mysteries entrusted to the priest of God! Not gold or silver or material food or things perishable, but life, absolution, forgiveness, salvation! 'Tis a tremendously solemn thing to stand before the people with these divine mysteries and to be held accountable for their administration and distribution.

There is the sacrament of Baptism! Go with your tender babes and shew yourselves to the priests, that these children may be washed in the laver of regeneration and grafted into the family of the all-loving Father. Soon again will be sounded the call throughout this parish for those who are ready and desirous to be confirmed. Will you see that the boys and girls are sent to the priests in order that they may be prepared for the Apostolic Rite of laying on of hands?

And there stands the priest before the altar plead-