

Beyond this, in the providence of God, it is now permitted us to extend the range of our thoughts. Not only is it a season so closely linked with the welfare of each Diocese at home, it is that most commonly observed also over the widely extending field of labour abroad.* There, too, are others joining with us to-day, and could we bring into one view their position as similarly engaged, from the distant East to the remotest West, it would present the animating spectacle of simultaneous prayer for one common end — prayer for those who so deeply need it, the ambassadors of the Saviour throughout every region of a fallen world.

Now, besides these peculiar advantages of the present season, there is one which our ordinations in general possess, and which is almost limited to our own communion, the blending together of the two services for the different orders of the ministry. It is a matter of no little interest to find assembled together those who, for the first time, and it may be with trembling anxiety, lay hold of the Ark of the Lord; it is

* We have ourselves held seven ordinations in the seven years at this season; five of them as on this very Sunday; in 1853, for other reasons the ordination took place on Christmas Day; and our last was necessarily deferred for one week, until the opening day of the new year. In this way it has been our privilege, in the providence of God, to hold our ordination at the Red River on January 1, 1856, and on December 21 of the same year to preach the ordination sermon within the walls of our own University.