

wise the work of the ministry will soon become an irksome duty, and you will have no satisfaction and no comfort in the discharge of it.

To personal piety there must be added a certain amount of educational training. The Presbyterian Church has always insisted on a high standard of literary qualification in those on whom she lays her hands in ordination, and while the training in the university and in the theological hall may have been perhaps too much insisted upon in certain cases, to the overlooking of the fundamental qualifications of a heart changed by Divine grace, and a life consecrated to the service of the Redeemer, at the same time if ever there was a period in the Church's history when men of culture, men fully abreast of the times in sacred and secular learning were needed to occupy our pulpits, it is surely the days in which we live. You do not need to be reminded that the present are sifting and trying times. When formerly unquestioned beliefs are being questioned, and every part of revelation put into the crucible to be tested and tried, and it would surely be a deplorable state of things were the accredited defenders of the truth found to waver and be unable to give a reason for the faith that is in them, unable to meet the opposers in their chosen field, whether of literary or scientific research. Get a firm grasp of the truth yourselves. Have strong convictions if you would produce strong convictions in others. The Gospel minister reproduces himself in his stated hearers; and if he is a waverer or is accustomed to express doubts himself, he need not be astonished if he soon find a plentiful crop of doubters among his hearers. Ever speak as men who have examined and been established in the truths you proclaim, if you would carry conviction to the hearts of your hearers and see the results of it in their daily lives. A pious and a learned ministry is what the present times require. The first of these

so essential that it can in no circumstance be dispensed with, the other exceedingly to be desired at all times, and in the present day so necessary as to be almost in all cases insisted upon from those who would be invested with the office of the ministry.

Did time permit, I would like to say something which might be of service to you when you have been sent forth as preachers of the Gospel. I must content myself with few words. First, let me say, be prepared to go wherever you are sent. Refute the accusation that has become somewhat common, that the young ministers of the present day are anxious not only for an early settlement but must choose the best vacancies within their reach. Be prepared to take the first opening the Head of the Church presents for your service. Be it a mission field, or a weak and supplemented charge, or a charge in a remote and backward settlement. Do not seek to carve out your own lot. Be ready in the spirit of self-sacrifice to say, "Here am I, send me." If the Lord has a higher field and higher work for you, His Providence will indicate His purpose, and He will in due time call you up higher.

Again let me say, Be not over-anxious about results. Long for, and be not satisfied without seeing some fruits of your labors, but be not impatient should you not gather them all at once. Be not in haste to leave the field where you have been placed in the Providence of God, except you have clear proofs that your work is done. Remember some seeds are slow to germinate, and some soils take a long time to bring to perfection the seeds committed to them. If you do not see immediate results, wait patiently, you may need the training. Results are God's not yours—the harvest will come in due time, the sowing must go before the reaping. After nearly half-a-century in the ministry, we are only now and again hearing of benefit received long years ago.