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THE PASTOR'S WORK AND THE PEOPLE'S DUTY.

Substance of a Sermon preached on the 24th December, by the Rev. Dr. Thornton at St. Ann's, and Welland Port, in connection with the induction of the Rev. J. Malcolm.

"Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear; for he worketh the work of the Lord as I also do." I. Cor XVI. 10.

The relation between pastor and people is spiritual in its character; and it is so very clearly defined in the sacred volum, that the minister of Christ who looks into it can can neither mistake his duty, nor the way in which it is to be discharged. By the same rule the christian churches may at once perceive the return they are to make to him whom God has placed over them. Paul in writing to the Hebrews says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." When he sent Epaphroditus to the Philippians, he urged them to "Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation." To the Thessalonians he says still more explicitly, "We beseech you, therefore, brethren to know them that labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." And to the Corinthians in the text, in recommending a young and eminent minister, he writes, "Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you, without fear, for he worketh the work of the Lord as I also do."

These words suggest two points for consideration.

I. *The aspect in which the ministerial office is here presented. It is the work of the Lord.*

II. *The obvious duty of the Church towards those engaged in that work,—that they may be with you without fear.*

I. The aspect in which the ministerial office is set forth. It is work. The faithful minister has no sinecure. His life is one not of ease, but of unremitting labour; and the work he has entered upon, may be thus characterised.

1. *It is a very arduous and difficult work.* This is apparent when we consider the lofty sublimity of the themes he has to take up, and the fearful array of opponents with which he has to contend. Mansind are naturally indisposed to the acceptance of divine truth, and it is with extreme difficulty that they are brought to acquiesce in the humiliating representations given in the inspired oracles of their native guilt and misery; and the minister cannot without the charge of "handling the Word of God deceitfully," neglect the frequent using of these unpalatable truths. But alas! it is no easy matter to fasten the charge of sin upon the conscience. Indeed the very attempt to produce that humiliating sense of worthlessness and weakness essential to a due reception of the