

ordered conversation. If we would take men to heaven with us, we must show them the fruits that grow there. Knowledge that is practical and experimental far exceeds that which is speculative. Any wise man going on a dangerous voyage, would prefer a pilot who had much experience in sailing, to one who had studied navigation in the most perfect manner on land; so let me have the spiritual guide who has wisdom enough to save his own soul.

In the second place, you must remember that though you have a minister of the best natural abilities, and the most eminent piety, he is nothing more than a man with the infirmities of our nature, and that he is but one individual engaged in the great work, and that Christ looks to others for the enlargement of his flock, and the extension of his Church? Are you elders? the office is honourable. The Apostle Peter says, "I am an elder," and this office has been filled with the noblest of the land. Good elders are a great blessing to the christian Church. You are chosen by the people, and solemnly ordained to the work. You are not required to preach the Gospel or dispense the sacraments, but to assist the minister in promoting the religious interests of the flock. You are the sentinels and guardians of the sanctuary. You are to preserve her from mischief and irreverence, and to see that her worship is conducted decently and in order. You must show your attachment to her by your constant attendance within her courts, and to remind others of their dereliction of duty. If others leave their seats empty, it is not to be expected that yours will ever be vacant, except in cases of absolute necessity. You must visit the sick, for you know not how much good it may do them, as well as to yourselves. I know of no better school of improvement than to sit by the bedside of a dying christian, for there you will see the excellency and power of religion. Give Sabbath schools all the support in your power, for they are often the means of awakening religious feelings in the young and rising generation. Do not absent yourselves from the prayer meetings. They seem almost essential to the prosperity of the Church, and are the usual thermometer of the warmth of her love. By your prayers, your example, and your consistent conduct, you may seek the good of Zion, and promote her prosperity.

In the third place, are you among the number of those who have come to a communion table and received the consecrated pledge of a Saviour's love? Have you publicly enlisted yourselves under the banner of Immanuel, and sworn to follow him through good and through bad report? If so, you can greatly benefit her, for the concerns of the Church are in your hands. The world fastens a scrutinising eye on you. Your conduct will be watched by rival religionists and zealous sectarians, while your practice will be noted by the evil-minded of every description. Your daily walk and conversation are observed by those who would delight to build themselves on the ruins of the Church. If then, you are careful that your manner of living corresponds with your profession, if you avoid that which would subject you to scandal or reproach; if you are what your obligations bind you to be, what the Church expects from you, and what the commandments of our Master solemnly call you to; if you are doers of whatsoever things are lovely, honest, and of good report, you will completely silence gainsayers, and will put to shame those who suspect the hollowness of your pretensions, and will even add to the list of brethren and companions, those who, perhaps, with respect to you harboured feelings of hatred and ill-will. What greater satisfaction can you enjoy, than that of being conscious that your faith and good works have been so manifest that those who formerly entertained ill-will towards your Zion, have by your unblamableness, and unostentatious, but conspicuous piety, with the di-