

of the minister than he can accomplish. Many different kinds of work devolve upon him, any one of which would in other walks in life be considered sufficient to occupy his entire attention. Besides conducting the devotional exercises at both morning and evening service, he has to preach two different sermons, each of which must of course be a model of eloquence of expression, elegance of style, and originality of thought. And yet the preparation and delivery of these discourses is but one part of a minister's work. He has also, probably, to conduct a Bible class on Sabbath afternoon, and to prepare short addresses for one or more prayer-meetings through the week. Surely the proper preparation for these services entails sufficient work for one man. But the preacher is also a pastor, and so he must visit the different families of his flock; he must attend at the bedside of the sick and dying, must seek to comfort the mourners, cheer the disconsolate, and guide and watch over the weak, the tempted, and the straying. The varied burdens of all his people he must bear, becoming, like his Master, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. In addition to these different branches of pastoral work, the minister has to attend the various church courts, take an interest in schemes and organizations of a general philanthropic nature, and keep himself in his studies and reading abreast of the best thought of the times. Otherwise, his whole duty to himself, his people, and the church, is not done.

When we take a mere glance at these various branches of work, we must allow that a minister who in any degree faithfully performs his duty is a hard worked man; and when we think of the tremendous consequences that depend so largely upon his words and work, we may well exclaim:—"Who is sufficient for these things!" No one who has all this work expected of him can, unless he be an exceptionally able man, expect to overtake it. His sermons will be sometimes dry and pointless. It is little to be wondered at if some one is apt to think he is not visited frequently enough. The proper performance of the duties which are supposed to devolve upon the pastor of a large city congregation is an impossibility. Some part of the work must suffer, or the minister soon dies of overwork. And when congregational work thus makes more demands than he can well satisfy, there is of course no time or