

that he can perform his daily task. There are many, we trust, who would not be afraid to encounter the certainty of life long penury, although it is one of the grimest spectres that can confront the youthful imagination.

Congregations and Presbyteries do not take sufficient interest in aiding young men by their prayers, and counsel, and money. In other countries there is scarcely a diligent student to whom some prize is not open—to whom some aid is not afforded. We know of a College where £10 a year for three years are given to every Theological student taking a full course. Wealthy men in our Church do not seem willing to devote their own sons to the work of the ministry; and this should induce them to be all the more liberal in aiding poor students. If you are unwilling to devote your own son to be a soldier of Christ, then surely you can provide or help to provide a "substitute!"

Parents would be more anxious to devote their sons to the ministry if they had a due sense of its dignity and importance. If there is any truth in Christianity, if there is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun, then the office of a minister of the Gospel is second in importance and dignity to none on earth. "We are ambassadors for Christ." "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace." The ministry was established by Christ himself, for the edifying of "His body," and it bears the impress of its Divine origin. His ministers are workers together with Him. They are working for God, with God, and the results they look for are for eternity. You gain worldly wealth—it perisheth in the using; worldly fame dies; envy and detraction tread on the skirts of worldly ambition; worldly crowns perish like the flower. But the work of the minister of the Gospel lasts forever. His brightest rewards are in another world; his crown fades not away. It is nobler and more enduring work to save one soul than to build a city,—to instruct an assembly of poor sinners needing salvation than to sway a senate. The ministry affords scope for the most extensive learning, calls forth the most devoted zeal, the

most unselfish benevolence, and keeps in active exercise all that is best and most Christ-like in man. He must often think and speak of truths the most awful and sublime, and hold up before his own eyes and the eyes of others the model of all goodness, love, and perfection. No other profession gives so much scope for doing good without ceasing—good of the best and purest and most exalted kind—good to the souls and bodies of men—good in relation to this life and to eternity. In the work in which ministers are engaged, the whole Spirit-world are profoundly interested; angels and archangels; Satan and all his host; God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.—This may well compensate for neglect on the part of thoughtless men; it may well excite to ardent and unflagging zeal, and unlimited self-sacrifice. In what field should a noble-hearted young man be more anxious to put forth all his energies? Where is there a calling more likely to give scope to his finest feelings, and his purest and loftiest aspirations? Father—mother—what loftier destiny can you desire for your son than that he should be a fellow-worker with Christ—a soldier of the cross—a standard-bearer in the army of the living God?

Why are there so few students in our College from cities and towns? Why are so few sons of rich men in the ranks of our ministers? It is as remarkable as it is deplorable that the thinned ranks of Christ's ministry are rarely recruited from among our city and town congregations, and still more rarely from the bosoms of our rich families. Mammon and pleasure, and worldly ambition seem to crowd out the claims of the Gospel ministry from their thoughts. Many a wealthy parent has to weep broken-hearted over the dishonoured grave of a son who under different training might have been a burning and shining light in the Church of God.

We know that the call to the ministry is from God, and that to run without being sent is a most deplorable error; but it is not the less true that parents should devote their sons, even from infancy or childhood, to the ministry, in submission to the Lord's will; and if the consecration is made