

Living Preachers.

THE OTHER SIDE OF A GREAT QUESTION—"TAKE HEED HOW YE HEAR."

An Address to the people on the Settlement of a Pastor.

BY THE REV. ROBERT DEWAR, LAKE SHORE,
ONTARIO.

[We hear in our day a great deal on every side as to how ministers should preach. This is all right enough. But this is only one aspect of a great question. The other aspect—the aspect, viz.: how *people ought to hear*, is, in its own place, just as important. Talkers or treatises on farming that treated only of ploughs and the other *instruments* of husbandry would be deemed incomplete without something about *soils*, and how to help them to yield good crops. The people's duty, as hearers of the word, is handled in this address following with much fullness and faithfulness.—*Ed. C. C. M.*]

The present occasion is one of deep solemnity, being the consecration of one to the service of God among you. It is equally solemn in the duties which it devolves upon you and demands of you, as a means necessary to a personal participation in the glorious gospel of our blessed God. The end contemplated by the Christian ministry is not to parade self in an ostentatious display of learning, or to furnish a feast to the intellect, or to play upon the mind with fine words, or to tickle the fancy with the mere show of drapery, or to touch the affections with the luxury of excitement; but to unfold unto men the grand truths of the gospel, to refresh their mind with the same grand truths, or to give to their mind new aspects of the

same grand truths, or to give to their mind enlarging views of the same grand truths; to imbue their mind with the spirit of the truth, with the love of the truth, with the desire for the truth, as it is in Jesus. Your correlative duty is, therefore, not to attend the ministrations of God's servant in order to wile away an hour as we do at literary entertainments, or to be charmed with the fascinations of genius as we seek to enjoy in the works of imagination, or to be dazzled with fine speculations as we expect to find in the works of philosophy; but to hear from his lips the word of God, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God; to be indoctrinated by him into the peculiar doctrines of the cross—into its principles, precepts and moralities. Now, if this is what you are required to do in order to become wise unto salvation through the ministry of the word, what are the means and conditions necessary, on your part to its attainment? Let us trace this out in the sequel.

1. Regular attendance on the ministry of the gospel. This is a prerequisite indispensable to growth in grace from the preaching of the gospel. He who is now ordained to break among you the bread of life, is regarded by his companions in study as a clear-seeing, deep-thinking, pure-minded, conscientious man. He cannot, therefore, be stationary in his knowledge of divine things, or in the condition of his mind in regard to them, or in the utterance of them; but he must make progress—progress of thought in divine things, progress of personal experience in divine things, progress of vital religion from divine