

find allusions where he never intended them, like the hearer who complained that his pastor had been praying against the government because he had entreated that the wickedness of the wicked might be brought to an end. But, should the minister throw himself into the strife of party politics? Rarely, if ever; for we seldom find any great moral question dividing our political parties, and it is on questions of that kind that the Christian minister may with greatest benefit expend his strength. As it is a duty for others to vote, so is it for him. And, if he desires to discuss party politics, none can deny his freedom; only he should not take these questions into his pulpit, for that would be making a coward's castle of the most sacred place from which a man can address his fellow-men. Let him turn for such discussions to the public platform, where he can be answered back, like other citizens when dealing with the same question. In most of our congregations the members are divided in politics. When the minister takes active part in the contest, being of like passions with other men, he may soon be quarreling with those to whom he should have proved a helpful counsellor, and be pulling down with one hand what he tries to build up with the other. Of course he has liberty in this matter, but the one thing to which we subordinate our freedom is the welfare of others.

To exclude him, however, from the narrow strife of party questions is not to exclude him from exerting a wholesome influence in politics. By pleading in the pulpit and out of it for purity in public as in private life, by condemning all forms of corruption, by placing honest government and public interest above mere party ties, by treating public questions with an enlightened patriotism, the minister may do much to serve the state. There is no man in the community who should let his voice be more clearly heard or his influence be more strongly felt than he in promoting genuine public spirit.

We look on the Christian minister as in some sense the successor of the prophet of Israel, coming to his fellow men with a message from God; and one of the most marked characteristics of the prophet was his patriotism. Dean Stanley says that, in this respect, they were an "example for the teachers of every age." He describes them as "thoroughly absorbed in devotion to their