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Miscellaneous Articles.

THE MINISTRY FULLY PROVED*

BY THE REV. WILLIAM RITCHIE, DUNSE, SCOTLAND.

My Dear Brother,—The Christian ministry, to which you are now ordained, is a great work. It has Christ for its author, the gospel as its subject, and the salvation of men for its end. On this solemn occasion, I am appointed in name of this Presbytery, to address to you the word of exhortation, and in humble dependence on Divine aid, I call your attention to this counsel of Paul to Timothy, “*Make full proof of thy ministry.*” You are here reminded that your work for life is a *ministry*, a service for Christ as an ambassador of His grace to perishing men. You are further reminded, that the work to which you are set apart is “*thy ministry*,” your special labour in an appointed sphere to be fulfilled in the pastoral care of this flock. The Divine counsel to you then is, “*make full proof of thy ministry.*” It is not only a work to be faithfully performed, but a power to be fully proved, its capabilities tested to the utmost, its living energy to be displayed for evermore. The command therefore laid on you is, make full proof of thy ministry, as an agency for the salvation of souls, and the glory of Christ.

1. Make full proof of your ministry by a *living faith in gospel truth*. I am persuaded you have learned, that a belief of the gospel is essential to your personal salvation, and have trusted in Christ for your own acceptance with God. A living faith in the truth as it is in Jesus, is no less necessary for all your success in the ministry you have received.

* An Address, at the Ordination of the Rev. James McLeish, in the U. P. Congregation Chapel Street, Berwick-upon-Tweed, 31st May, 1859.