

attracted by the miracle of their patience, discern the "form of the Fourth" with them, and fall and adore Him, "because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort!" Others in the home life, amid peaceful influences, train up hardy influences, train up hardy soldiers for the future fight of faith; while to others is given the stewardship of wealth, to gain it, and use it for high service in the Master's work. Every believer has his work, and the good Lord wills that he accomplish it!

Next in importance to the question, What is my ministry? is that of, How shall I fulfil it? Absolutely self-surrender to God must ever be the first qualification. All property in self, all direction and will, must be yielded up. How can we know the noblest and best life of which we are capable? He must arrange it for us who says, "As the heaven is higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." "Thy will be done!" that must be the law of every man's life who would live to purpose. Let this self-surrender be followed by whole-heartedness of service—desires, affections, purpose, and will, gathering up their whole strength to the accomplishment of the appointed work, and it will be done. He only really lives, who lives with all his might. Such a man may hope in God that his work shall not fail. God will take care of that. His example shall not "waste its sweetness on the desert air," nor his blows fall aimlessly, nor his labour be "in vain in the Lord." Self-surrender, earnestness, cheerful faith in God—these are the elements of success. Let the reader ask, Have I found my work? Am I doing it?

The word is full of voices calling for consecrated men, whose one thought shall be to do the will of God, and whose ministry this, to bless mankind for His sake.

"Rouse to some work of high and holy love,
And thou an angel's happiness shalt know,—
Shalt bless the earth while in the world above;
The good begun by thee shall onward flow
In many a branching stream, and wider grow;
The seed that in these few and fleeting hours
Thy hands unsparing and unwearied sow,
Shall deck thy grave with amaranthine flowers,
And yield thee fruits Divine in heaven's immortal bowers."

ABBREVIATION.—The art of abbreviation in writing or speaking is most difficult to learn, yet it is no less important on that account. It is easy to say a great deal, and yet say nothing worth hearing: he speaks to purpose who can present wise thoughts in a few words: on the other hand the man who talks much without thinking is like a child who, in daily conversation, evinces that he possesses neither culture nor experience.