

tions, animated by the same hopes, reliant on the same Almighty arm, "come, and let us reason together" of the minister and his reward.

There are various similitudes under which, each in its own aspect of fitness, the office of the ministry is presented; but the ideas of trust and of responsibility are leading and present in them all. The minister is the dresser of the vineyard, tending early and late upon the vines; the fisher of men, toiling through the dark and in the rain; the master-builder, charged to see to it that the house is safe and strong; the shepherd, bound to feed and fold the flock, or to search through the gorge or on the mountains for the one that has wandered astray; the watchman, earnest and unweary in the hours when other men slumber; the ambassador to whom are confided the honour and the message of the King. In none of these, however, is there a more impressive illustration—a greater blending of trust and tenderness—than when, in the Lord's own words, the minister is the steward of the household from which the lord is absent for a season. You will readily appreciate the fitness of the allusion. The Church is a wide and loving family—