

The Ministers Temptation.

Specially written for the W. H. M.



NINE o'clock, one Sabbath evening saw the extremely fatigued young minister back in his study. Any one entering, ignorant of his circumstances, would have been astonished to see distinct pain-lines and utter weariness pictured on his face. "So this is the end of seven years grinding at College and University," he thought, "an

empty church, apparently unappreciative people, isolation from the throb of civilization and congenial associates, and financial problems becoming more urgent."

His mind ruminated upon the preparation for his life's work. Professors had drilled him in Infralapsarianism, Solifidianism, and revealed the fallacy of Somatism, had scouted other "isms" until his brain had reeled. The dispute between Athanasius and Arian, Augustine's "Total Depravity," Luther's "Con-

substantiation," Calvin's "Election," Wesley's "Arminianism," Naville's "Collective Responsibility," had in succession received sledge-hammer blows or were warmly commended as the mental bias of the teacher inclined. The student had evolved into the minister, and as his mind dwelt upon his training, he admitted that there was but little, if anything, received of practical value to his present needs. How to take care of a western mission field, deal with its difficulties and perplexing problems never weighed upon the minds of his teachers. In class work, Stanley Grant, the minister, had been eminently successful; in College sports, a favorite; in debate, his towering logic and clever analysis, his keen insight into the weaknesses of his opponent's position, his power in destroying supposed strong-

holds, had gained him a foremost place on the debating teams. After ordination, despite the fact that one or two prominent churches looked upon him with longing eyes, the "Golden West" claimed him. It was hard, bitterly hard, that he who had been a general favorite in class and on the field, who had been spoken of as a "coming man," found himself confronted with that which a strong man detests—failure!

On the table lay a letter he had just laid down which showed signs of much handling. Let us read it.

Dear Stanley:

Your circumstances are not unknown to me and I sincerely deplore them.

You work among an ungrateful crew who don't want you or your homilies. Why should you die with ennui in that God-forsaken part of the West; you



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