

on. There is a right door through which to enter into every undertaking, and if that door be missed, the result will be much groping in the dark, much precious time wasted, and it may be much labour and many efforts employed to little or no useful purpose. While this holds true in other cases, it does so especially, and in the highest sense, in the work to which you have this day been solemnly appointed. This is a day which must be often in your thoughts. It is a day for serious self-examination, and for sincere, honest and humble surrendering of yourself anew to the Lord Jesus Christ, your divine Master, that by His own gracious hands you may be truly consecrated to do His work.

You are about to engage in this work under many and very valuable advantages, fitted to encourage and lead you to anticipate much comfort and usefulness. You are not newly entered on a strange field. A residence for a considerable time in this colony, during which you laboured as a missionary among the different congregations, has made you fully acquainted with the peculiarities of custom and manner and modes of feeling which distinguish this from the land of our fathers. Your experience in this way will be of great service, and will enable you, in the pulpit and in your intercourse with the people during the week, to accommodate your advice and instructions to their capacities and their wants. Another great advantage is, that you received from this people an unanimous and most cordial and earnest call to labour among them. So far as this is concerned, no minister could enter on his work with greater encouragement. You certainly may recognize the hand of God in this, and you will not err in believing that He, the Great Shepherd, so disposed their hearts, and so gathered this scattered flock and united them so heartily in the call you received, in order to open up for you a wide and extensive field of usefulness. But, with all this to encourage as you are entering the field, you must not forget that many difficulties and trials are in the way before you. Were you to escape these, and to find day after day and year after year every thing gliding smoothly on, and your path free from trouble, it would not be to you a token for good. Wherever the work of Christ is progressing and breaches are being made in the strongholds of Satan, there certainly will the enemy of God and man create trouble if possible. If faithful to your divine Master and to the precious souls committed to your care, you may rest assured of meeting with many things that will sorely wound and try your spirit. But, blessed be God, over all the attempts of Satan and his agents, the great Head of the Church directs His ever watchful care. They are all in His hands, and are controlled at His pleasure. Their efforts will be permitted only in so far as the trials are required to quicken, to humble, and to impress more deeply on the heart, the need and necessity of constantly looking to Jesus and walking in His strength.

It is when sensible of his own weakness, and when he is clothed with humility and self-abasement, that the servant of Christ is prepared to receive largely at His hands the grace and the strength that will enable him to go vigorously, and with success, forth to his work. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." This is a truth which every minister of Christ must thoroughly learn. It must be imprinted on his memory and engraven on the tablets of his heart. The ablest, the most eloquent and earnest ministrations, will not convert one soul, until the Spirit of God takes that ministration in His own Almighty hands. Let this truth be ever mingled with all your thoughts. Dwell upon it until your mind is moulded into its very spirit, that you may be kept from ever going foolishly in your own strength to rescue the perishing soul. All your real success, and your own safety too, depend on the hold you keep of this great truth, and the influence with which it will continually impress your heart. Whether in the pulpit or preparing for it, visiting the sick and dying, rebuking sin, or administering comfort to the depressed in spirit, remember, that your Master himself must be with you to direct your efforts and give them