

that watches the operations of the Spirit on itself and others, is in measure prepared for each case ; and, if we may say so with reverence, is able, from having been tempted, to succour those that are tempted.

And only, again, take the grand test and touchstone of what we preach. The visit has to be paid to the bed of the sick and dying ; to this you must be called at once, immediately on your passage into the ministry.\* How vain to trust here to books or the labour of others ! how trying your position, unless you have fully contemplated death and feel that it is disarmed of its sting, and the grave of its victory ! But with the heart engaged in the work, how delightful to pass to the bedside, and find that the word spoken has not been in vain, and that the patient only requires the same affectionate attention a little longer, the same voice to bring forth the promises which are adapted to the suffering and the afflicted, and to offer up the petitions which may prepare for entering the swellings of Jordan ! How delightful to have been the instrument in guiding a fellow-creature to the Good Shepherd, and to be able to commit him in sure trust to that Shepherd, as he passes through the valley of

\* This expression is a solemn and important one, and as such is dwelt upon in an "Address to the Graduating Class of the General Theological Seminary, New York," by Bishop Burgess of Maine, in which are many valuable and striking thoughts. See "The Passage into the Ministry." New York, 1850.