

earthly things, and to "*desire a better country, that is, an heavenly.*"*

Yet there is also a youthful ambition, which, aiming at a still higher mark, measures esteem and honour by the wisdom and worth of him by whom we are contemned or esteemed, with respect to an unerring judgment, to infinite wisdom. † And we congratulate, the world often congratulates, upon the soundness of their choice, those who select their profession according to this view of things. It is indeed a great and glorious work to devote oneself to *fight* in the battles of the MOST HIGH, to *plead* the cause of the fatherless and oppressed, and aid mercy in triumphing over judgment, to *deliberate* and advise for those who are citizens of heaven, to *cure* the distempers of the mind, and speak peace (where none other can,) to the afflicted and distressed, to *obtain knowledge* of those heavenly mysteries which "Angels desire to look into."‡ It is an honour beyond all honours, to offer, in an especial sense, "ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice," to the LORD of Heaven and earth: to be called "a sweet savour of CHRIST unto GOD," to be "ambassadors for CHRIST,"§ "Ministers of CHRIST, stewards of the mysteries of GOD,"|| feeders of that flock, of which the ETERNAL SON "which is in the bosom of the FATHER," ¶ is the Shepherd. If any be indeed ambitious, here is the loftiest flight to which his ambition can soar.

But it may be said, on the other hand, that though this be granted, yet it is no less undeniable that the Ministerial is a Profession which involves *difficulty*, *humiliation*, and *responsibility*, such as are unequalled. And in truth this is eminently the case. But this fact constitutes one of the essential glories of this highest of Professions.

We acknowledge in matters of common life the overcoming of *difficulties* to be a credit and distinction: why

* Heb. xi. 16.

† Bishop Butler's Sermon, xiii. towards the end.

‡ 1 Pet. i. 12.

§ 2 Cor. v. 20.

|| 1 Cor. iv. 1.

¶ St. John i. 18.