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SOME CONDITIONS OF MINISTERIAL SUCCESS.

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I trust it will not be deemed presumptuous for me, a layman and man of business, to address you, Gentlemen, Students of Theology, with respect to your life work. I am not about to discuss points of doctrine, nor any of the subjects that form part of your course. But as one who has been hearing sermons for more than forty years and has had many opportunities of observation, both in the old world and the new, my purpose is to give you the results of experience. A celebrated Divine was once asked after preaching a certain sermon, how long it had taken him to compose it. "Forty years, Sir," was the answer. A reply which can be readily understood. We have all, doubtless, heard such sermons. I do not know whether you will consider my condensed forty years experience worth anything when you have it. Such as it is, however, I place it at your service. And if I say one word which will be to any of you a word of stimulus, direction, or caution, in the great work you have undertaken, it will amply repay me the trouble of composing this paper.

I am to speak of the Conditions of Ministerial Success. But what is ministerial success? Let us understand that at the outset. Half the mistakes of the world are caused by not clearly stating what we mean by the terms of discussion. In my judgment, ministerial success may be summed up in several important particulars.

First. *The power to gather and keep a congregation.* That is the primary essential, and the foundation of all the rest. For if a minister cannot obtain hearers, how can he save or edify souls. But the mere