

out some of the duties which you owe to your Pastor:—

I. Then, love that watchman who has this day been set over you. All faithful ministers of the Gospel are entitled to your respect, but this man has a special claim on your esteem and affection. You have asked him to break among you the bread of life, and to take charge of your souls, and it is your duty to receive him with love on account of the glad tidings which he brings. Is it not our duty to love those who are instrumental in doing us good? Is not this the dictate, even of nature? Is it not the duty of the naked to love those who clothe them? Is it not the duty of the hungry to love those who feed them? Is it not the duty of a prisoner condemned to die, to love the man who hurries to his gloomy cell and announces to him the welcome news of pardon? And is it not much more the duty of a Christian people to love the man who comes to them with the glad tidings of pardon and peace,—to tell them of hell, and to warn them against it,—to tell them of heaven, and to guide them on the way?

I take it for granted that your Pastor loves you, and that he is cordially attached to your interests. He brings you good news, and he wishes to be the friendly instrument of bestowing upon you important benefits. It is his duty, as a spiritual instructor, to lead the contrite in heart to the Saviour; to point his faith to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world; to encourage his hope of mercy, from the exhaustless fountain of infinite love; and to teach him to confide implicitly in divine faithfulness, and the exceeding great, the precious promises which are made to them that believe. Such being the case, he is jealous over his people with a godly jealousy.—He is afraid, lest by any means their minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. In the bonds of Christ Jesus, he longs after them. He travails in painful birth, until Christ be formed in them. As a father exhorts, comforts, and cherishes his children, so does he his people. He lives only that they may stand fast in the Lord. And, brethren, if he feels such holy, fatherly carefulness, and anxiety for you, surely you ought to esteem him very highly in love, for his work's sake. Your Pastor comes to you as a messenger of the Lord of Hosts. He bears a message from the King Eternal, and ministers among you in His great and venerable name. Receive him as an ambassador for Christ, and love him for the sake of Him by whom he has been sent. Said our Lord to the seventy, and through them to every faithful Gospel minister whom he sends out into the world, "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth me; and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me." If good, therefore, results from the relation now constituted between you and your Pastor, you will often, from the heart, utter the language of the Prophet, "How beautiful