

connection between Brain and Stomach. Men frequently go into college in excellent health, and come out miserable dyspeptics, but "very intellectual looking." But does not the minister of the Gospel require, beyond most men, to have strong nerves, seeing that he has to meet with so many things which have the power to annoy? It is a full-handed and full-hearted work, and if, my young brethren, you go forth to that work with nervous susceptibility, you will, on the very threshold of your ministry, encounter much to vex and irritate, which would be altogether avoided if you carried a really sound body with you into your work.

INFLUENCE OF HEALTH ON BELIEF.

Consider, moreover, that the state of your health will very materially influence your opinions. A morbid condition of health will often produce morbid beliefs. Many are the ecclesiastical eccentricities and heresies that have come of bad blood, through unwholesome living, rather than from cerebral deformities. I do not give this as my theory of all heresy, but of that miserable rat-like heresy, which is placed to the account of bad logic, when it comes only of bad digestion.

DEMANDS UPON THE MINISTRY.

There is another view to be taken of this matter of health. By the illustrious and never-enough-to-be-understood example of our Lord we learn that the duty of strength is to help weakness, and of goodness to remove badness: and more and more God is saying to his disciples, Your duty is not to withdraw from mankind, but to go down to the lowest of your fellows with those means and influences that will elevate them and make them better. All the tendencies of the age will be found to be operating for the democratizing of the world on the Christian side—to bring down to the service of all men what before was the possession of the few. We see this in respect of education, literature, science, art, and in fact in every department of knowledge. With this comes an increase of work for the Christian minister. I do not know how it is with you, but with us in America the demands upon the ministry now are four-fold what they were a few years ago. Hence more bone and muscle, more "grit," and greater powers of endurance are needed by ministers of the Gospel for them to go through their labours and discharge their duties. I would not put you all into a gymnasium, but I would say, do not think lightly of your physical health, and recollect that in the New Testament we are commanded to consecrate our bodies to God just as much as we are our hearts and souls. I am very grateful for myself to be able to say that, with the exception of a few months after a very acute illness, I have never been obliged to take the element of health into my calculation when determining whether to engage in any particular work.

GET KNOWLEDGE.

Let me say a word also on another subject. I am not a learned man; I am not regarded in my own country as a scholar; I have studied men much more than I have studied books, for I had not the opportunity of acquiring great scholarship; but let me tell you young gentlemen, as the result of my experience, I have been deeply thankful for as much as I did get when I was in the seminary, and I have felt all my ministry through till now that if I had got ten times more my work would have been far easier. You cannot be too thoroughly and critically acquainted with the text of Scripture, nor heap up too much material such as will be constantly needed in the prosecution of your work.

PERSONAL PIETY.

I pass to another thing. I want to speak to you on THE RELATION OF YOUR PERSONAL PIETY TO YOUR USEFULNESS. I do not mean merely the old ecclesiastical idea of piety—a state of mind and heart relating purely to God; for I understand piety to be such a Divine quickening of man's soul, mind, intellect, and moral affections that even his passions are sanctified and sweetened, so that all his powers are devoted to works of mercy as well as to the worship of God. You are not necessarily a good man because you pray, though prayer is indispensable. Let