

responsibility upon earth. It is a duty of my position to counsel and to cheer you—to remind you of the character which it behoves you to attain, and to stimulate you with the hope of the recompense which awaits your toil. I come to this task under the constraint of office, having over you the melancholy advantage of years, but sad with a strong sense of shortcoming in my own soul. With lofty conceptions of the ideal of ministerial character, and a sincere love of it, and an earnest purpose for its attainment, I speak to you, "not as those who have already attained." I have to urge you to become what I am not, but only striving to be; I can but indicate the glory of which I have caught only the faint and distant radiance; I can but point you to the pure bright summit, from the far slopes up which I am painfully climbing. If my counsels are shorn of their authority by this confession, give me credit for that sympathy with yourselves which may be an element of power instead. Listen, not to the teacher of unapproachable sanctity, but to the *brother* in experience, in infirmity, in struggle, in desire. The standard is the same, although we fail to reach it. Pressed beneath the same sanc-