

and proclaiming so earnestly the overwhelming importance of the work of the ministry. Our ministers and people have something to learn from this passage in the life of Dr. Chalmers: If the work of the ministry be so overwhelmingly important let the minister take heed that nothing in his conduct tend to lower and degrade his high calling. Let it be manifest to all that he prizes highly and loves dearly the work in which he is engaged. On the other hand, let the people take care that they do not compel ministers to turn their thoughts away from the great verities of the spirit-world to questions of food and clothing—the necessities of daily life. Alas! does it not happen too often that even two days of the week cannot, by some ministers, be kept sacred from worldly anxieties? It is of vital importance that ministers should devote all their time and all their energies to their great work; and in order to be able to do so the people must be careful to make adequate provision for the minister's daily wants. What are a few shillings or pounds in the balance with the salvation of souls? Yet by withholding your few shillings or pounds you are crippling the messenger of Christ, clogging his feet, weakening his hands, dimming his eyes, stopping his tongue! You are endangering the salvation of souls, obstructing the gospel, compelling your minister to become a poor "pluralist,"—a farmer, a schoolmaster, perhaps even a pauper! While we admire the burning eloquence of Dr. Chalmers, let us appropriate the lesson which his example teaches.

Another lesson to be learned from the life of Chalmers is economy of time. An amount of labour was crowded into the sixty-seven years of his life sufficient to adorn ten ordinary active lives. No hour was wasted in idleness or dissipation. Some of his noblest discourses were written while waiting at hotels, while sitting in drawing-rooms liable to constant interruption, while returning home after the labours of the Sabbath day. He was an earnest student, an indefatigable worker, an economizer of time; and hence the amount of work he was able to do for his Master.

The life of Chalmers teaches a lesson of

humility and godly simplicity. He desired not the praise of men, yet it came upon him in overwhelming measure. The British pulpit and platform never witnessed such triumphs of eloquence as were won by him, yet he was all the while unconscious and simple as a child. In London the most learned, noble and influential men in Church and State crowded to hear him. Men like Canning and Jeffrey and Lockhart and Wilberforce, were carried captive by his power. Vast aristocratic audiences sprang to their feet in unconscious homage to his eloquence. It was the same wherever he went,—among the outcasts of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and among the *élite* of the capital. Yet through all this ordeal he bore himself as became a disciple of the meek and lowly Jesus. The conversion of a soul was far more precious to him than the plaudits of the great multitudes. He was no popularity-hunter. In one of his Glasgow discourses addressed specially to his Sabbath School agency, he urged upon them to seek the quiet and sure popularity that is won in the bosom of families and by the side of death beds. "There is," said he, "another, and a far-sounding popularity which is indeed a most worthless article, felt by all who have it most to be far more oppressive than gratifying; a popularity of stare and pressure and animal heat, and a whole tribe of other annoyances which it brings around the person of its unfortunate victim; a popularity which rifles home of its sweets, and by elevating man above his fellows, places him in a region of desolation where the intimacies of human fellowship are unfelt, and where he stands a conspicuous mark for the shafts of malice, envy and detraction; a popularity which with its head among the storms and its feet on the treacherous quicksands has nothing to lull the agonies of its tottering existence, but the hosannas of a drivelling generation."

His care for the outcast and the poor was another most notable feature in the life of Dr. Chalmers,—a feature which should be imitated by all the followers of Christ, whether ministers or mere members of the Church. He no sooner entered on his ministry in Glasgow than he turned his at-