

put in the sickle and reap fruit unto life eternal. Let not "an oppressive sense" of the "inferiority" of your talents discourage you. Have you never observed the variety of talent evident among the reapers in the *harvest-field*? Some there are who can impart to their sickles a noble sweep, and the grain is grasped and levelled with a sort of commanding and solemn majesty. But there are others who, perhaps, having neither mental nor physical ability for such a grasp, "make up for it" by the quickness of their motions. Their nimble reaping-hooks make two or three strokes for one of their competitors, and thus they keep pace with, or "go a-head" of, their more talented companions. I know an individual who is as bold and active for God as if conscious he possessed the first talents of the land; yet none can be more sensible of the mediocrity of his abilities, when compared with other ministers of Jesus Christ. More than once I have heard him modestly apologize for the frequency of his attempts to do good, by adverting to the advice given by a Spartan mother to her son, who was going forth with the army to the wars. "Mother," said the lad, "my sword is too short." The reply of the mother was, "*Add a step to it, my boy.*" A sentiment which one would expect from a Spartan mother, but it required a Spartan boy to hear it; one who had been taught to carry out the advice, or never return alive. Let the conviction, then, of the defectiveness of your talent impel you forward to increased diligence in your holy calling. "Add a step," my brother; nay if possible, take five steps for one taken by your superiors, — five sermons for their one, — and you may do more for God, and have a brighter crown, than the man who has *ten talents*.

There can be no doubt you were, at the time you mention, on the verge of a glorious revival; nor am I much surprised, at what you justly consider a "mortifying failure." If we will not do God's work in his time, but perform our own work first, it is presumption to expect his blessing, either on his or our own work. When the Israelites disbelieved the report of the spies, despised the promise of God, and murmured against Moses and Aaron, they were ordered back again into the wilderness. A