

is worn-out is hardly deserving of either care or attention,—a worn-out body is scarcely worth either food or clothing,—and as economy must be practiced in the Church, he is hardly allowed enough to keep the old framework together until nature dissolves it

Then the mental powers are supposed to be worn-out, and consequently he is unfit for any Circuit or Station. Not but that he can travel, and think, and preach, but because he cannot preach three times each Sabbath, and do the full work of a man of mature age and vigorous health, he is declared to be *worn-out*. He may be able to do as much work as a regular minister in any other Church, but because he cannot come up to this standard he is thrown aside as *worn-out*. His christian experience and the graces of the Holy Spirit as inwrought in the heart and developed in the life,—very essential things to the Church and its Ministry,—are these worn-out?—not quite,—they are to be held in abeyance until he gets to heaven; but for all practical benefits to the Church on earth they may be placed in the category of the worn-out. We must be a very holy, spiritually-enriched Church to be able to dispense with these mature talents and graces.

Let us take a case as it presented itself at our last Conference, in illustration of the position of our aged Ministers in reference to our work as at present laid out. A venerable Minister came to Conference fully expecting to receive an appointment to a circuit, and an appointment is given him, but on inquiry he finds that the labour is such, that he cannot take upon him its performance, on account of his advanced age and the infirmities consequent thereon; another attempt is made to accommodate him, but with no better success; so he is compelled to rank with “Worn-out Preachers.” This brother has been in the itinerant ranks nearly 40 years—a period which has given birth to fully one-half of our present active labourers. He was engaged in the arduous toil of cultivating this field when he had to endure hardship and privation. He gave his youth, his manhood and his age to the work, he maintained an unspotted reputation, held a good position as a Preacher, and filled many of the most respectable pulpits of an early day. He saw the Church in its feebleness and its strength; when it was rent and divided; when it grew and expanded amidst all he was faithful, and now in his old age, this very Church denies him the privilege of a place, where he might still labour, and where he is as anxious as ever to labour. But because he cannot do what God in the order of his providence has ordered he should not do, he is cut off from nearly all participation in the work of the ministry. And yet his vows are still upon him,—vows presented by the same Church, that he should faithfully perform the work of an evangelist; not to a certain and defined extent,—not for a stated and limited number of years, but