

directly spiritual counsels and advice, and that it is the business of the class-leader to see them every week, and to report to you any special need for a pastoral visit; and that, therefore, nothing can be more minute than the spiritual oversight insured in Methodism, if its rules are properly carried out. But while admitting all this, there is still a great, and profitable, work to be done in this direction.

Some of you will be appointed to country Circuits, and a better appointment for body, and soul, you cannot have. It is in these Circuits that pastoral attention is especially needed. In many of our villages there is a widespread and determined effort being made to exterminate Methodism. Local influence, and ecclesiastical power, are being combined to make religious liberty impossible. Methodism is being misrepresented, and denounced; and Methodists who are true to their principles are exposed to a species of boycotting as complete as the ability of the men who employ it. These people have to fight a battle of which townsmen know nothing. Have they no claim upon us? and do we owe them no service? About this there can be no question. How then can this service be rendered? certainly not by hurrying in by train, preaching a brief sermon, and hurrying out again. There must be sacrifice and self-denial. We must give the people careful pastoral oversight—not one must be overlooked. I trust that, at all costs, you will resolve to maintain the Methodism which our fathers laboured and suffered so much to create; and that you will so care for the villages, that tyranny and bigotry will be defeated, and religious liberty maintained to the latest generations. If we forsake the villages God will forsake us. This rests mainly with you, and I trust you will realize your responsibility, and seek grace to be faithful.

Others of you will be called to labour in the large towns