

PRAYERFUL, ACTIVE PIETY. We have thus far spoken of the call for intellectual endowments and acquisitions, to the efficient discharge of the ministry, on which we can hardly insist with undue earnestness. But indispensable as they may be at the present day, they are far from comprising the whole panoply, or constituting the chief ornament of the man of God in the pulpit, or the teacher in the theological chair. If the correct understanding of the doctrines contained in the scriptures, and the ability to elucidate and enforce them be justly desired, surely the disposition of the heart in regard to them is not less momentous. Is it not true, and in agreement with all the known operations of our minds, that our moral and spiritual state, the attitude of our hearts towards a given subject, exerts a commanding influence over our mental perceptions and the decisions of the will? And if this be admitted in ordinary cases, need it be asked, if in reference to such a subject as the Gospel, so peculiar in its discoveries, so pure in its principles, so personal in its application and so spiritual in its whole texture, the condition of our spirits, our affections, have nothing to do? It would not be difficult, I imagine, to show that such preparation is of the very last moment, even to the critic of the sacred text. And quite as essential is the reverence, the sobriety, the just submission of finite reason to the infinite mind, ardent