

its meaning. We do not hesitate to accept the Scriptures as inspired, upon the authority of the early Church, of men who being well acquainted with the estimation in which the writers were held, and with the evidences of their divine mission, have handed down these documents, endorsed with a certificate of their genuineness, and of the certainty of the evidence on which they were received. But as I spoke at some length upon this subject in my last charge, I will not enlarge upon it now.

I would also refer you to that address for other observations bearing upon your public ministrations ; but there are some things which cannot be too frequently repeated, and I should be sorry to dismiss you without at least an attempt to fan the zeal and devotion burning in your hearts, reminding myself as well as you of our obligations, and of the importance of spirituality in ourselves, if we are to influence others for good. Our first duty is to try by all means to save some. If we have anything of the spirit of our Lord and Master, we shall cheerfully devote ourselves to this work, for He came "to seek and to save that which was lost." He never spared Himself, when He was weary and sought rest, He was nevertheless induced, by His compassion for the multitudes to forego it, and to attend to their wants rather than His own. It is a happy thing for both minister and people, when there is much familiar intercourse between them, when *they* have acquired the habit of going to seek counsel and comfort from *him*, and *he* is in the habit of seeking them out in their own homes, and ministering to the whole as well as to the sick within his cure. We are to "be instant in season out of season," carefully watching for, and availing ourselves of, every opportunity ; and I wish particularly to enforce your duty towards the whole, for the sick are seldom neglected, but I fear that some of my brethren are more remiss with respect to those who are in health.

The sick are to have the precedence for several reasons ; they have a claim to our sympathy, in some cases the nature of the sickness is such that the time of probation of the patient is evidently nearly at an end, and in the hour of affliction the heart is commonly softened, and the exhortations may be thankfully received which at other times would have been rejected. The work in their case too is far easier for the minister, who is expected, as a matter of course,