

His one constant, guiding, question will be, What is the will of the proprietor? and when that question is answered, he has no choice but to render prompt obedience. What then, I ask, is the trust which is committed to your care? It is clear that in many respects your gifts will differ, and that you will be called to a variety of work. There is no monotony in any of God's works, and there is none in the ministry. When we read what our divine Master said about the stewardship, we are told that one had one talent, another two, and another five. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, says that God "gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; and that this variety was for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ." In his letter to the Corinthians he dwells upon this variety, saying that there were diversities of gifts; that one was pre-eminent for wisdom; another for knowledge; another for faith; another for the gift of preaching; another for the working of miracles; another for prophecy, and so on. And then he goes on to say that God has set some in the Church—first, apostles; secondarily, prophets; thirdly, teachers; after that, miracles; then, gifts of teaching; helps, governments, diversity of tongues; and warns us against expecting every gift in all. That some were to be remarkable for one talent, and some for another, and that God qualifies every man for the special work he is called to do. It is important that you should ever bear this in mind, to lead you to ascertain the nature of the gift that is in you, and to prevent your being discouraged because you cannot do the work that others are doing. It should also be borne in mind by the people, that they may not form unreasonable expectations respecting you, but that they may derive all possible benefit from the varied blessings which God designs you to convey.

Having thus reminded you that you are not alike, but