

Gospel is setting men back into line with the Christian church. At no period, then, has it been so imperative that the walls of Zion should be built up, her palaces considered and her bulwarks secured for if that church who is the nurse of your nationhood, whose spirit and administration is most democratic and progressive, that Christian society which is and always has been the guardian and champion of the people's liberties and rights, I ask you, if this bulwark of your nation's life be permitted to suffer from the neglect and indifference of her people, if her position and influence be held in contempt, if the foundation be destroyed, what will the righteous do?

If there is one thing more than another, that with this opportunity I would seek distinctively to emphasize, it is the need of our time for a ministry of cheer. Look around you on the world, not necessarily in that sense in which it is associated in the anti-christic trinity, weigh the efforts, the aims, the prizes of life, and you find much sadness, very much self-defeat, for our commercial splendor and sovereignty brings grief as well as gifts in its train.

In view of that I would that your homes were more open to the higher influences of our social ministry. I earnestly desire the people of this land to grant an open door and a kind heart to the presence of their clergy. Hospitality is a Christian as well as a pagan virtue. We in Scotland like to have our minister with us in our joys as well as our sorrows, unless, of course, he be a marjory and a sobersides, one who does not believe in his heart that Jesus was present at the marriage feast, who cannot stomach the grand finale of the greatest of all the parables 'And they began to be merry.' There's an end to half your moral problems and social rottenness, when you have put to one side this prudish Puritanism and to the other unbridled and brutal licence. Oust cant and corruption by sane, hearty enjoyment.

If you take your pleasure in such a fashion as does not admit of the presence of your minister, then there is something very far wrong indeed; but if you can enjoy yourselves rationally and profitably, why bar the man whose life it is to preach a Gospel of Gladness? Let us share with you the joyful passages of your life; help us to realize that you regard us as human and not of some other caste and hue. Every sensible minister will invite your most intim-