

tempt toward any such efforts to harm him; for they can only touch him after they have been transformed into blessings by his Almighty, ever-present friend and protector, Christ Jesus.

Now, when a minister fancies that he has failed to obtain a good appointment because of his profession and teaching on the subject of holiness, it simply argues want of faith in the Almightyness of the God of holiness, and should be taken as evidence of his unfitness for more important work than that to which he has been appointed. For the same spirit which would exalt, in his imagination, any Conferential power unduly, would sway him on a more important field of labor. He would see, in opposing forces on the coveted circuit, forms of opposition to thorough work on holiness which would develop his lurking unbelief, and prevent his mastering the situation.

The God of holiness is a God of almighty power; moreover He is a wise general, and must place His forces where every individual can be most effective in combating His foes, He being much more solicitous for the greatest success possible than we can be. So then the entertaining the thought that He, the God of wisdom and power, fails to place us where we can do most in His service, is secret treason against our Sovereign.

St. Paul, writing to slaves, exhorts them to perform their acts of menial service heartily as to the Lord, and thus emancipate themselves from any feeling of thralldom in their appointed labors. How much more should a man, called of God to separate himself from secular employments, and devote his life entire to preaching the gospel of Christ, walk in perfect freedom from all fears concerning the possibility of any power lower than that of the Master acting prejudicially to his true interests.

If not free from all such fears, consider whether or no in obtaining what is called a poor appointment, even that is not given simply because the Master is short of efficient workmen. O, our littleness of faith! Wherefore do we doubt!

Again, is it not possible to make a kind of *fetich* of the appointing powers

of the Church, and consider that obedience to the mandate of a committee is in itself a meritorious action. It is quite possible for the spirit of popery to creep into a minister's life in his attitude to powers of the visible Church. Just as perplexed Christians in the pale of the Romish Church hand over their consciences to a mortal, so a minister can hand himself over to a committee, and throw upon it all responsibility concerning his place in the work of God.

Now we maintain that such a position is not that of true dignity, the dignity that becomes the sons of God. Human organizations are of God, it is true, but they are not to usurp the place of God, therefore the true servant of Christ looks upon all these things, however excellent, as secondary in place, and ever looks through and beyond them, and connects everything with God. If, therefore, he receives, for example, an invitation to a certain field of labor, he takes the matter, first of all, to the Lord, and through the Holy Spirit knows what to do concerning it. But in such a procedure, it is evident that to receive wisdom from the Spirit in dealing with it, he must not be trammelled by any superstitions, that is, undue regard for anything human.

And so of any matter which may come up as affecting his appointment, if instructions are not taken from *Headquarters* he must suffer from all the breezes of uncertainty which come from human actions, rendering him meanwhile a mere reed shaken by the wind.

We have, with much pain, witnessed ministers who have successfully held up the banner of holiness on their circuits become weak as other men at Conference, because, forsooth, there was some uncertainty about their appointment, and by this means they were prevented from working successfully in the cause of holiness at the place where rich opportunities present themselves for such work.

Dear friends, let us go to Conference, "calm in the strength which God supplies through His Eternal Son." Then not only will we illustrate faith in trying times, when God can make it tell to the advantage of our brother ministers,