

we may be quite familiar. We may have even frequently read and pondered them with some degree of sympathetic interest. But it is only when the circumstances that first produced them are in some measure repeated, it is only when we find ourselves moving in similar scenes and coming under the influence of similar incidents, that our emotions can at all resemble the feelings which they originally indicated. The words of the text I have often read before, and so, doubtless, my beloved brethren, have you; but there is that in my appearing before you now which invests them with a peculiar character, and makes the utterance of them productive of a singular effect. Eight years have nearly elapsed since you called me to minister to you in holy things. During that period I have humbly attempted, with much feebleness and imperfection, I confess, yet not without some earnestness and devotion, and, I hope I may say, not altogether without success, to honour the awful responsibilities which lie upon the shoulders of every ambassador of Jesus Christ. I have made it my principal business to expound to you, agreeably to the requirements of scriptural truth, the leading doctrines of the Gospel. I have sought by word and by deed to excite in you a becoming regard for the precious realities revealed for our instruction and comfort in the inspired volume. I have endeavoured to enforce upon your attention and esteem the principal points of Christian duty, and espe-