

whereby they may try the state of their souls—whether they are travelling on the sure way to heaven. But how much failure is there to awaken interest—and how much mistake there may be as to real spiritual state. Ministers have no infallible discernment of the state of their people; nor are the people able to know certainly the state of their minister. What sad deceptions and mistakes of judgment there may be the one of the other, and how apt are both parties to be mistaken concerning their own state. But let us always remember that mistakes are by no means innocent or unavoidable as respects judgment of self. They arise from guilty inattention to God's offered guidance. But at the day of judgment ministers and people shall have *another kind of meeting*—Oh, yes *then* the secrets of every heart shall be made manifest, and every man's state be perfectly known—God tells us that it is the day when he shall judge the “secrets of men by Jesus Christ.” Rom. ii: 16—the day when he will bring to “light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the counsels of the hearts.” 1 Cor. iv: 5. Wondrous are the powers which God has given to nature and to man's art—for example, by that beautiful invention, the daguerreotype process, the solar light reflected from the countenance of the person sitting for the picture, and received upon a metallic plate gives you the very image of the living original. But this is only the outside, after all, that we have of the human being. At the day of judgment there is to be an infinitely more wonderful process—even *spiritual picturing*. God will, by a power swifter and more penetrating by far than electricity, bring up to us our *whole past lives*—will make such an impression of that life upon conscience as shall remain with us unimpaired through all eternity. If we shall be found to have had our sins washed in the blood, to have committed ourselves to the keeping of Jesus, and to have his image on the soul, heaven and its eternal joys will be the impression, true to the life, enstamped upon our consciousness. If Jesus shall have been rejected—terrible thought!—hell must be the impression. Oh my friends, considering the nearness of your and my earthly relation, its powerful influences upon each other, let this thought be with us by day and by night.

In view of such solemn realities, let us pray for each other more and more. “Brethren pray for us” is an old, old request, so old that it is apt to be used as a common place. But I make the request as no mere matter of custom and form. I make it under the deep impression that it is most urgently needed to be done. I have often most earnestly recommended meetings in small groups for this special purpose. The true power of prayer in force and influence is infinitely beyond all the powers of nature. Oh let it be definitely used by you; strive to bring your minds up to all the solemn realities and grand eternal issues of our meeting together at the tribunal of Christ, and of their instrumental connexion with a gospel ministry, so long enjoyed. Pray for your pastor with that earnestness which you would do, if you knew that this meeting were at the very door. Do this—put God to trial upon his own promises, “whatsoever things ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.” Mark xi: 24. Do this, and the best results for us both may be through the blessing of God expected.—*From Pastoral Address to the people of his charge, by Rev. H. Gordon of Gananoque.*