

parties concerned,—which may call for correction on one point, the supply of deficiency on another, and on a third direction or encouragement. Continuance of connection between the educating and the educated parties, favours this requisite training in more ways than one.

The steadiness thus secured in the operation of the formative influence tends of itself to promote it; while additional advantage is gained, as in the case of simple instruction, by the increased facility in the adaptation of means to persons and ends, flowing from the more accurate acquaintance for which permanence of relationship supplies opportunity. Add to these the growing interest awakened on the one side, and the answering confidence with which it is met on the other, and you have another—a two-fold element indeed for good.

Great, however, as is the advantage accruing from the considerations already named, there remains another to be noticed, without the mention of which our enumeration would be very incomplete,—we mean the assistance afforded by the associations which cluster round the man who has sustained to us through an extended period the relation of which we speak. The intermingling thus occasioned of his form, his countenance, his voice with all our holiest and tenderest recollections, gives him in certain moods of the mind—and most in those which are best—a power over our hearts all-but resistless. How could it be otherwise? By him, ere yet conscious, we were, it may be, consecrated to God in the holy and beautiful rite of Christian baptism. From the first opening of our minds he has taught us with a father's patient love, and watched over us with a father's sleepless care. Through his instrumentality we may have been led to the Saviour, and thus made partakers of "the peace of God which passeth all understanding," of the "hope full of glory," which, "laying hold upon everlasting life," yields us its blessed support in the hour of trial, strengthens us for useful service, and prompts us to it, and is exerting over us an assimilating power which is making us meet for participation in the "inheritance of the saints in light." Perhaps he stood with us by the dying bed of some loved one—a father or mother; brother or sister; husband, or wife, or child—held, it may be, the dying hand, and with voice and look of love, whispered into the dying ear words of consolation, by which the departing spirit was cheered and strengthened for the encounter with the last enemy; laid the loved form in the tomb, which, though long years have since intervened, is still dear for its tenant's sake, whom we hope to see emerge thence on the resurrection morn in His glorious image who is Lord of the dead and the living; turned, perchance, on the completion of the sacred office, to us and wiped the falling tear from our eye, continuing his attentions till the wound which God had made had closed, though possibly the scar may yet remain, and the old pain be brought back by ungentle handling or a lowering atmosphere. Does it not afford matter for surprise that any one wishing to make full proof of his ministry, should consent to throw away unnecessarily a power like this? that any one who would have his soul prosper, would have Christ formed in him "the hope of glory," would grow up to "the measure of the stature of a perfect man" in Him, should willingly, should without the pressure of a necessity the most imperative, have the action on him of such an influence disturbed, not to say shut out?

The Pastor's work has for a further object the establishment and upbuilding of the church as a source of blessing to successive generations of believers, and an instrument of abiding holy action upon the world.

To this part of his charge, the principles above announced apply with an undiminished, if not an augmented force. The time and care wanted to form the man are demanded as certainly and imperatively to form the church. Where a number have to be trained to live and work harmoniously and for one common purpose, line requires to be added to line, precept to precept, here a little and there a little. To reduce the friction to the minimum; to bring out the maximum of power, and give it the most advantageous direction, and keep it in action, requires a skilled hand, and one which is trusted; but skill and trust are the growth, the slow growth generally, of time—the one forming the matured fruit