

If he is not equal to the labor, let him retire. Let me say one thing more before dismissing the subject, it is this:—the preacher who finds himself well paid for his labors, surrounded by the smiles of the public, may well doubt whether he is reforming the world. He is much more likely to be a conformer than a reformer.

Respecting the great question of the responsibility of the brethren in the direction of preaching the gospel, I would be glad to say many things. We are no where, as a people, employing ourselves for the purpose of raising up and qualifying men either young or old, to preach the gospel. It will not do to say we will leave that matter to God. He never accomplishes anything by miracle, after he has ordained a system of means to that end.

We are trying to get into exercise in this section of New York a system of co-operation, that will work on year after year—the need of which was represented by Brethren Anderson and Kilgour at the close of their year's labor. I intend to give you an outline of our system as soon as it is brought to bear.

But when I sat down to write to you it was to pay a tribute to the memory of a departed brother. And while thinking of the wonders of the ways of God and the responsibilities of man—why the devoted zealous servant of God—the man of usefulness and promise, should be removed from the field of his labor, while others are left to idle away a few more years, I wandered off as above. What think you, Brother Oliphant, has the Lord a place of employment in that more glorious world, which he fills up by transplanting his saints from earth? While we are on the earth, we are permitted to stand round about the palace of the King, only looking from the courts into the halls. May we not suppose that our departed brethren have in the mansions above a happy home, and employment suited to their tastes?

Brother SOLOMON GAINES, of Castle, Wyoming county, N. Y., was called home some time last spring. The precise date I do not now remember. I did not, indeed, hear of it till I saw it announced in the "Christian Age," some two or three months subsequent to the event. Brother G. was about fifty years of age; and had been for a number of years a devoted servant of the Lord. I knew him well—his patience, his faith, his liberality.

A rent is made in the circle of my earthly associations. The remembrance of such men is well calculated to make us stronger in the faith. Brother Gaines was strong in the faith while living, and triumphant in death. When near his end, he was enquired of if he was ready to die, to which he replied, "*That has been the business of my life—I am ready.*" Verily he "endured, as seeing him who is invisible." Of such an exit from time we may well employ the lines of the poet:

"Sure the last end
Of the good man is peace. How calm his exit!!
Night dews fall not more gently to the ground,
Nor weary worn-out winds expire as soft."

Yours, in the hope of that immortality which is brought to light by the gospel.

A. P. JONES.