

in earnest, long preaching is slow suicide. Half an hour in the morning, and three-quarters of an hour at night, is, as a rule, as much as the people want, and as much as you ought to give.

If you wish the Church over which you are placed to prosper, conscientiously keep your appointments, especially your preaching appointments. You will have, now and then, to visit and help other Circuits, but do it as seldom as possible. Comets serve a purpose, but the planets are more valuable to the manner; and, as a rule, you will find that the Church prospers more under the care of those who carefully keep to their own work, than it does under the ministry of those who are ever on the wheels. The longing of our people for strangers in the pulpit, is an unhealthy result of the itinerancy, and it is wise in all of us to check it as much as possible. In order to this, always give your people your best. Never trifle with, or despise, a congregation. They be few, and poor, and uneducated, but they are a part of the Church over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseer, and He is ever present to see how you discharge your duty.

*Pastoral visiting* is another part of your duty—a duty that is only second to the preaching of the Gospel. The want of this is widely felt, and you should give yourselves to it most religiously. Whatever you may do beside, you can never be a faithful steward if you neglect this; and if you attend to it faithfully, I can promise you a successful career, and a glorious reward. I know that unreasonable expectations are entertained as to what you can do in this matter. Our people sometimes expect us to visit as much as a Congregational, or Episcopalian, minister. They forget that they have the class-meeting, of which others know nothing; that the clergyman often gives sermonets, while you are expected to give sermons; that you have a much wider area to cover; that you *do* meet them quarterly, for