

and its consequences, both in regard to yourself and to them, will be very solemn and of eternal duration. You have publicly and solemnly undertaken the most arduous duty of watching for their souls, as one that must give an account. They have received you and have had you set over them as their watchman. To use their own words, they have "invited, called and entreated you to assume the office of a pastor among them, and undertake the charge of their souls." How great is the charge!—how precious the trust! These souls of which you have been called to take the charge, are exposed to the most awful danger of being forever ruined by their great enemy. You have been appointed, and have undertaken to blow the trumpet and to warn this people of their danger. The blood of those who hear the sound of the trumpet and take not warning, shall be upon their own heads, and they shall die in their iniquity. But if you blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned, they shall be taken away in their iniquity, but their blood will God require at your hand. How carefully, then, ought you to watch, and how faithfully ought you to warn!

Knowing then, as you well do, that I do not now speak to you in my own name, nor by my own authority, but in the name and by the authority of the brethren of this Presbytery, permit me, in compliance with the injunction of our church, briefly to address you in regard to the grand objects which you ought continually to keep in view, and the means by which they may be most successfully pursued. The high and holy objects which you are ever to keep in view are, the showing forth of the glory of God, the advancing of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the salvation of souls. If happily, by the divine blessing upon your labours and ministrations in this place, you shall be the honoured instrument of winning souls unto Christ, you will at the same time, and by this very means, glorify God and advance the kingdom of Christ. This is a combination of the most glorious ends conceivable—to be the means of promoting them, is the highest honour which can be enjoyed; and to be ordained and appointed for this purpose, is the most awfully responsible office with which a human being can be invested. Some of the principal means of accomplishing these ends, are the following:—

1. The minister of Christ must carefully and constantly set before his people an example becoming the gospel and his sacred profession. This is an important part of a minister's duty, and the exemplification of it has a very powerful tendency to render his services both acceptable and useful. You know how common the saying is, that exam-

ple has more influence than precept. This truth indeed has passed into a proverb owing to its importance. All unclerical deportment on the part of ministers of the gospel, has a most injurious influence on the minds, hearts and lives of the professors of religion, and ought therefore to be sedulously avoided. By inconsistencies in the walk and conversation of the ministers of religion, the real disciples of Christ will be offended, and their edification impeded; and the enemies of religion are eagle-eyed in detecting, and unwearied in exposing such inconsistencies; and they will be expert and also successful in turning them into powerful weapons for opposing the cause and the spread of the truth. There should therefore be a high degree, and an uninterrupted course, of conformity between a minister's preaching and his practice; for unless this be the case, he cannot reasonably nor warrantably expect that his preaching will be much blessed, even though it should be free from error as far as doctrine is concerned. A bishop must be blameless, that is, a person against whom no evil can be proved—one whose good name is invulnerable. He must be sober, prudent, of a sound mind—having a good understanding and complete government of his passions. He must be of good behaviour, orderly and correct in appearance, external manners and conduct. Moreover he must have a good report of them who are without; that is, his character in civil society must be unblameable—he must have a good testimony even from unbelievers; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil, and give the adversary occasion to reproach him for his inconsistencies, and thus prevent his usefulness; which circumstance the devil may render a snare to draw him into greater sins by tempting him totally to disregard the opinion of men who vilify his character.

2. Prayer with and for his people, is another very important part of a minister's duty; and he who frequently, fervently, and believingly approaches the throne of grace in prayer for the salvation of his hearers, may rest assured, that in his own good time and way, God will answer his supplications, and crown his labours with success, in the conviction and conversion of sinners, and in the spiritual improvement of saints. The examples of prayer for others, the commands to pray for others, the answers to prayer for others, and the benefits of prayer for others, contained in scripture, are numerous. For encouragement to imitate these examples, for being persuaded of the indispensable obligation of compliance with these commands, in order to receive these answers and experience these benefits, let us advert to a few of them. In