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*"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."—Psalm 137, 4-5.*

SERMON PREACHED BY THE REV.  
JAMES FITZPATRICK, B. A., IN  
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, PICTOU,  
AT THE INDUCTION OF THE REV.  
ROBERT BURNET, M. A.

TEXT:—Now then we are ambassadors for  
Christ.—II COR. V: 20.

Paul seems to have recognized the truth that he was called of God to do a certain work. A call to the ministry yet is a call from God if it mean anything at all. Undoubtedly in some respects the ministry of Paul differed from ours. It differed in the fact that he had personally seen Christ. It differed in its sometimes miraculous character. It was however the same gospel he preached; and it required the same Divine power to render that gospel effectual to salvation. In Paul could say, Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, so also can all true ministers in the present day. Let a man possess the consciousness that he is called of God to do a certain work, and he will betake himself to that work with a degree of zeal and determination that he could not manifest under other circumstances. Let him feel that he is running without being sent, and then you may expect that his words will be cold and his ministry barren.

Ministers yet hold their commission from the Great Head of the Church. Christ before his departure from earth made provision for the continuation of a

ministerial class. And he gave some apostles, &c.—EPI. IV: 11-13.

Recognizing then these truths, let us enquire:—

I. What are the qualifications of the gospel minister?

First, that he be himself a christian. It is only they whose hearts have been touched by the Spirit of God that are adapted to be the instruments for bringing conviction to the hearts of others. Undoubtedly God can make use of what means He pleaseth; and the power is not in him that preacheth the word; but in the word itself, and in the Holy Spirit with the word. Far be it from me then to assert that no man was ever converted through the instrumentality of one who was not himself a Christian; but surely it would be a strange anomaly for the ministry of such an one to be accompanied with much success or blessing. That a man may be useful in the Church in imparting the bread of life to others, let him first partake of it himself.

Then, like Apollos he must be "mighty in the scriptures." The bible is his great text book. He should thoroughly understand its modes of presenting truth. He should form his theories from the bible, and not go to it with his theories already formed, and seek to establish them from its pages. He should seek to be on the side of scripture, rather than have scripture on his side.

While however the bible is his great text book and authority, he must be versed in the literature of the day. Never