

itarian worldliness. There are also certain forms of religious activity and benevolence that prevail in each age. The Sabbath-school, at the present time, calls for a class of ministerial duties that were formerly unknown. Modern enterprises of benevolence make demands upon the pulpit which were not heard of in past ages. All these things must be carefully observed by him who has been placed as a watchman in Zion. He must look far and near, and learn from all the movements of both friends and foes.

There may be other sources of pastoral theology, but these are the principal ones, and these should be very diligently studied for the guidance of the minister's life-work. An intelligent view of what that work is, and of the principles upon which it rests, will contribute greatly to success in the discharge of its duties.

NECESSITY OF THIS STUDY AS A BRANCH OF TRAINING FOR THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.

Pastoral theology comes to the help of the young minister, and spreads out before him the teachings of Scripture, the accumulated experience of ages, and all other information that may have a bearing upon the successful pursuit of his calling. This knowledge it lays before him in a systematic form, so that he can easily find information on whatever point he chooses. In this way there is needful guidance furnished him before he has had opportunity of making experiment for himself in the various branches of his work. He is not left to go unaided through the whole process of investigating what is scriptural and what unscriptural; of trying what is wise and what unwise, and of proving for himself what is practicable or impracticable. If

each young minister were under the necessity of working out this tentative process for himself, there would necessarily result innumerable mistakes and failures. Then there would be discouragement, and perhaps serious evils that otherwise might have been avoided. This study comes, chiefly to the inexperienced, as a comparatively safe guide. Aided by it they need not work in the dark, but with the light of Scripture and experience beaming around them. They can go upon ground that has been tried and proved to be substantial.

Moreover, plans and experiences are here accumulated and presented to the minister which he might not himself have thought of, and which it might have taken him many years to discover. In this study are unfolded successful methods of spiritual and mental culture, of sermonizing, and of performing other work of the gospel ministry. It points out scriptural plans that have proved effectual in awaking interest in divine things; helps that many have found reliable are indicated here.

No less important are its warnings of what should be avoided. The mistakes into which others have fallen, the failures and the causes of failure, are among its instructive lessons. Proved means of overcoming difficulties, or of avoiding them, are here suggested for the relief of the overwrought pastor. This vast store of experience ought not to be lost. When it is spread out before the minister at the commencement of his life-work, and diligently studied by him, it will prove of incalculable value.

All possible helps should undoubtedly be furnished the pastor, that he may thereby work to the greater advantage. If his work is toilsome, and is thus made more easy; if it is trying, and may in this way become more pleasant; if it involves the greatest interests, and

these things may make it more successful,—then surely such helps cannot be too diligently used. The same amount of pastoral labor may thus be made to accomplish greater results. And in this way, too, time may be economized. And when it is considered that the work of the minister is to cultivate the heart, to cultivate the head, to preach, to lecture, to visit the sick and sorrowing, to attend to the aged and the young, to assist in ecclesiastical affairs, to be busy outside and inside of his church, and to discharge many other duties, then it will be seen how important it is to use all means to make his time go as far as possible. He should have every help in a work so complicated and so momentous.

The lawyer, the physician, the teacher, the artist, the farmer, the machinist, all have their books of instruction to assist in the practice of their calling, and the study of these leads to the higher proficiency. Undoubtedly, they become far more successful by the use of these aids. How much more needful is it that this art, the highest and most important of all, be studied and guided by well-matured rules! It is a holy art, and its results will be eternal—how can it be too carefully cultivated?

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE, AND OF THIS PREPARATION FOR IT.

The nature of the office of the gospel ministry is such that its duties cannot be too thoughtfully regarded. It is an office which was established by Christ himself, the great Head of the Church. Its commission is held from the authority of Heaven, and its duties are connected with the kingdom of God. Would it have been ordained by this special appointment of our Lord for