

thing with him, but as the great business of his life and as an indispensable part of every duty to which he is called. His study is not to be as a mere preparation for the ministry, to be dropped, or even remitted, when its active duties are entered upon, but is to be the incessant occupation of his life. It is not to be relaxed with years, but to go on filling and enriching the mind upon whose stores there will be such incessant draughts. This work of replenishing and strengthening the mind is fundamental in the ministerial office, the sphere of whose duties lies so much in that which is mental and spiritual. The pastor should be earnest in it. In this, as in other things, he should make full proof of his ministry. He should meditate upon these things, give himself wholly to them, that his profiting may appear to all.

The pastor must study, study, study, or he will not grow, or even live, as a true workman for Christ. The want of this is the cause of innumerable failures which are seen in the ministry. Here is a young man who enters upon the office with fine talents, a fair amount of preparation, an encouraging field of labor and every prospect of success. But the promise is not fulfilled. He does not come up to the expectations which were excited, and which he himself entertained. On the contrary, his preaching decreases in interest, his congregation falls away and his whole work declines. The reason is, that he has not kept his mind polished up by constant study, or continued to replenish it with the rich stores of thought which he might have gathered from other sources. This process is well described by Vinet in his admirable work: "We must study to excite and enrich our own mind by means of other men's. Those who do not study find their talents enfeebled and their minds become decrepit before the time. In