

# MINISTER AND PEOPLE.

"I study books in the forenoon and door bells in the afternoon," was the summing up of his own plan of work by the late Dr. Cuyler, of Brooklyn, New York, who excelled both as pastor and preacher.

The minister who goes and does likewise has usually little fault to find with his congregation or they with him.

For the minister in the country, the time table may be different but the principle is the same. The minister everywhere is pastor and preacher. These are the two arms of his service. Neither can be neglected without failure and loss.

But either sayings beside Dr. Cuyler's are sadly familiar.

Among the people: "Our minister don't visit"—"Does not study his sermons"—"Gives nothing fresh"—"Is too often out of his pulpit"—"Does not look after the young"—"Does not go after the non-church-goers"—"Has no helpful message"—"Does not preach the Gospel."

Among the ministers: "The people are careless"—"They don't attend regularly"—"Don't come to prayer meeting"—"One cannot be all the time on the street and prepare sermons"—"One cannot be expected to visit so large a congregation"—"If they want religious service, they know where to come."

In all these and similar complaints there is usually some truth, and for them some foundation; but a few facts for both ministers and people should be remembered.

For people: The work of your minister is not to minister to your pleasure or to serve your desires, however good these may be; but to be a co-worker with you as you with him.

It is not yours to be served by the minister but, with the minister, to give joint service. Your question should be, not—How is the minister attending to me?—but, How are the minister and I attending to our common duty?—more especially—How am I doing my part of it?

Then if there is something more which I cannot do and the minister can—am I keeping in touch with him? Do I bring such things to his notice? Am I thus a co-worker with him in saving and helping others?

Further, if there is something in which I think the minister can help me, do I go and ask him. If he has not visited me, instead of complaining have I visited him, or sent word asking him to visit me.

"Oh, but that is his business." Yes, but it is your business as well. You have become partners in the one work. You give most of your time to other work and earn a wage or make gain. A part of that wage or gain which represents your time, you divide with him, that he may be able to give all his time to your joint work.

For ministers:—You are pastors as well as preachers. Your work is to look after the spiritual welfare of the congregation in the widest, fullest sense. For it you are responsible.

Your work is no sinecure. If a man wants leisured ease, or a life of leisured study, the ministry is not his place. If you

are in the ministry with any such thought you have mistaken your calling.

The ministry is simply an opportunity for the intense and most profitable investment of life for the spiritual and eternal good of others.

Here is a body of people. Some of them are likely to become engrossed with the material things of life. Your work is to show them that they are immortals, and to lead them to give God and things unseen a rightful place, the supreme place.

Some of them are tempted. Yours the responsibility of leading them to lay hold of an Arm that is mighty to strengthen and save.

You and they are co-workers, but you are leader not master. Not lords over God's heritage but examples to the flock. The German officer, it is said, drives his men; the British—"Come on, boys!"

There are further facts, for ministers and people alike.

1. All are human and imperfect and there should be charity for other's shortcomings though not for our own.

2. The search light should be turned from the work of others to our own. If this were done by all there would be a great revival. Each one may start such a revival by beginning at home.

3. Grumblers in pulpit or pew are not usually those who are doing best their own work. The busy folk are not the busy-bodies. Preachers or people who concentrate on their own work are to blessedly busy to find fault with others, while at the same time their example inspires and helps.—Presbyterian Record.

## QUARTERLY MEETING.

The Quarterly Meeting of District No. 4 convened with the Church at Victoria Corner, March 8th. In the absence of the President, Rev. H. Smith, and the pastor, Rev. J. P. Trafton, presided. Rev. A. H. Trafton took charge of the first services and preached Thursday evening. Sister Ella Slipp arrived in time to lead the services on Friday, 10.30 a. m. Brother I. F. Keirstead had charge of the service at 2.30 p. m. and Brother Perley Briggs in the evening. In all these many earnest definite testimonies were given and the presence of the Spirit was manifested. On Saturday 10.30 a. m. Brother I. F. Keirstead again led the services, taking as a foundation for his remarks Rom. 15:29. This was a missionary service and helpful to all present.

The quarterly business session was held at 2.30 p. m. Rev. P. J. Trafton was elected chairman pro tem. The roll call found the following ministers present: Revs. A. H. Trafton, I. F. Keirstead, E. W. Lester, Sister Ella Slipp and Lic. Perley Briggs. The officers for the quarter were: Rev. C. S. Hilyard, President; I. F. Keirstead, Secretary; Brother P. J. Trafton, Highway Agent, and Brother Geo. Somers, Treasurer.

Quite a number of delegates and visitors were present from the churches and seemed to be at their best. The reports from the churches were encouraging. The following churches were mentioned as having been blessed with the spirit of revival during the quarter: Hartland, Victoria,

Fort Fairfield, Woodstock and Marysville. In this business session the following resolution was passed: Resolved, that we as Reformed Baptists assembled in this quarterly session, heartily approve of the prohibitory law, placed on the Statute Books by the retiring government and that we earnestly request the present government to stand by and enforce the above mentioned law.

The interest of the Highway was brought before the meeting by the agent and \$20 of a free will offering was raised to help the publication as the cost of publication has advanced of late. Also some new subscriptions and several renewals were obtained. "Go and do thou likewise."

The devotional committee made the following arrangement for the services following: Preaching Saturday evening by Sister Ella Slipp. Her text was Luke 1:15. "He shall be great in the sight of the Lord." The speaker showed John to be great in purity of character, in humility and self-sacrifice and in his power to draw and influence men. She also dwelt upon the fact that all of us may become great in these respects by keeping in fellowship with the Son of God. It was a helpful and heart stirring sermon.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock a love feast was led by Rev. A. H. Trafton. The spiritual tide ran high in this service. Many earnest, willing testimonies were given to the power of Christ to save, cleanse and keep. So enthusiastic were the people in telling out the good news that it was with difficulty that the President closed this meeting to begin the preaching service following at 10.30. Brother I. F. Keirstead brought the message on this occasion and was much helped by the Spirit of God in doing so, the text being the 1st epistle of John 1:7.

Brother Lester was the preacher of the afternoon and Brother Hilyard in the evening. They both were helped in bringing the messages and some earnest souls bowed at the altar in the evening service and we trust got through to God. Every one agreed that this was a very successful quarterly meeting. To God be all the glory!

I. F. KEIRSTEAD, Secy.

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"PURCHASED."

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people, and many phrases in expressing Christian testimony have become general that were met with ridicule in the early holiness movement. Not only so, but our methods of conducting revival services are quite closely being adopted. Even the camp meeting table offerings are in some cases being used, or methods very similar. These are all acknowledgments of our success. "Let us thank God and take courage."