

tion of the universe! The conversion and final salvation of one sinner, is an event of higher moment, of deeper interest, than the creation of a whole system of worlds! The soul of man, from the extent of its capacities, and from its capabilities of endless improvement, has obviously a value above that of the material universe. And the recovery of such souls has been deemed an object worthy the solicitude of angels, and the sacrifice of the Son of God. Indeed, it has called forth the highest expression of the Divine benevolence, in the gift of his Son, to seek and to save that which was lost. Does not the subject, then, demand the consideration of the most gifted minds, the highest and best cultivated intellect, as well as of sound and deep piety.

A powerful and gifted ministry is, furthermore, demanded from the dazzling and attractive nature of the objects of time and sense which surround us; such a ministry as, in the name and power of God, may arrest attention, and turn off the eyes from beholding vanity. We live in an age of great enterprise, and in a country affording scope for bold and daring experiment in every direction. Genius is on the stretch for improvement, and continually throwing out new discoveries. The nation is rapidly advancing in wealth, and putting on strength, power and influence. Railroads and canals are rapidly multiplying, and intimately connecting the most distant parts of our country. Emigration is pushing its onward march, clearing away forests, spreading over the vallies, covering the hills, and building up cities. In the older states, manufactories are increasing, and monied institutions are multiplying, and they are rising in influence, pride and power. The spirit of the age is also inspiring the intellectual world, and moving it onward to greater and higher attainments in knowledge. The press is pouring out its periodicals and volumes with surprising and astonishing rapidity, and literary institutions, of every description, are rising up in all directions to beautify and adorn our sons and daughters. Science is inspiring enthusiasm, and richly repaying the toils and labors of her votaries. The hall of legislation, and the bar of justice, are opening a wide field for the display of eloquence, and inviting thousands to the conflict. Learning and genius, and

eloquence, are attracting the gaze of the world, and enthroning themselves in the hearts of all civilized nations. At no age of the world, at no period of time, has the human mind, in all departments of worldly ambition and enterprise, been excited to keener intensity, or brought out results more adapted to absorb public attention, or to hide eternity from view.

Now we would not arrest this spirit of enterprise, we would not allay this imposing march of improvement, but we would have it sanctified by the gospel, and made subservient to the advancement of Christ's kingdom among men. To accomplish this end, we perceive in these imposing movements, occasion for corresponding increase of energy in the church, and a redoubled power in her ministry. And who, if not the angels of the church, can be expected to draw down light from heaven, and throw around a celestial radiance, which will present worldly men and worldly objects in their proper light? And what other influence, indeed, can be expected to save the church herself from being led captive by the god of this world? The church was never exposed to greater peril than at the present moment. Agitated by internal divisions, and moved by external excitement, she requires the direction of a strong and skilful hand. Besides, the allurements of avarice and ambition are dazzling her on every side, and inviting her embrace. And how is her pride thus fostered, her spirit of prayer checked, and her mind diverted from the great business of her high and holy calling! At such a crisis, what but an increased energy in the ministry of God, can be rendered effectual to save her and her children from being engulfed in that general tide of worldliness, which threatens to drown millions in perdition, and, if unchecked in its operations, will deluge the whole world? The times call for a ministry of deep sanctity, of great piety, and of extensive influence; a ministry who can beat back the powers of darkness, and carry forward the church of God to perfection.

The Christian ministry is also a profession; and needs for its success, the confidence and respect of the community. But, to secure these, it must possess an elevated, moral, and religious character. It must advance with the general progress of society. Should it retrograde, or even re-