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# The minister's mission

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## The Ministers Mission.

The man of God is sent forth into the world upon the grandest mission that ever was committed to man. There are many who do not look at the minister's <sup>office</sup> as of a very high order. The man who is sent to a foreign court to represent his country is supposed to hold a much higher office than the minister of the Gospel of Christ. Not a few Christians look upon the offices in the State as of much

more importance than that of the ministry. But such a view lowers the true estimate of the minister's office a hundred fold. The true view will place the ambassadors of Christ as far above those of the State as the heavens are above the earth.

The minister is sent forth by the Church upon his grand & glorious mission. The Church having been established by Christ to save the world, has the right & the power to send men forth to do her biddings.

This power is not confined to any special denomination, as some would have it, but to any & all Christian bodies of whatever name they may be known. It is their duty to send out men into the vineyard wherever there is work to be done.

But the minister does not receive his commission from the Church alone, but from God - the great Head of the Church - the Lord of glory. Hence the messenger of the Gospel is authorized by

high heaven to perform deeds of mercy & of love. He who goes forth thus equipped to save men, has a higher commission than that of an archangel.

The minister's mission involves certain duties & responsibilities which claim our special attention. It is his duty to destroy idolatry & superstition. We do not have to go to heathen lands to find these forms of evil. There are idol-worshippers in almost every nook & corner of our

our country. The man who  
 sits in his counting room  
 all day Sunday, or runs  
 trains of cars or lines of steam  
 boats for the almighty dol-  
 lar, or he who worships his  
 family, his talents, or the  
 power he may have in the  
 community or country - to the  
 neglect of the worship of God,  
 is an idolater. The man  
 who believes that his church  
 is the only true church &  
 unless you belong to his  
 church, think, act & worship  
 as he does - you cannot

be saved, is truly superstitious. The minister should spare no pains in trying to destroy these evils which are great barriers to the spread of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It may take long & cautious efforts to knock down these false props set up by wicked men, but the work must be done & no stone should be left unturned. That will help in accomplishing the great end in view. It is the duty of every true minister.

of God to strike with all his powers - every form of idolatry & superstition until these sins are annihilated & the Church of the Lord Jesus built upon the ruins thereof. This work may be very hard & the road to its completion very rough, but duty demands its execution.

Again - the minister is sent forth to preach the Gospel. God commanded the prophets to deliver the messages he gave them & they did it <sup>nobly</sup> faithfully.

Though Jonah shrunk from his duty at first, yet he became a dutiful & faithful preacher. The apostles were sent to preach the Gospel & they did it earnestly & zealously at all hazards, & gave up their lives willingly for the cause of their divine Master. The call to the ministry is just as important & as binding today as it was in the days of Peter & Paul. The minister is sent forth, not to seek rest & comfort, but to preach the word of the Lord.

Great duties do not imply ease  
 & leisure, but hard work &  
always at it is what they  
 mean. The minister is to  
 preach a whole Gospel; re-  
 generation & justification by  
 faith, a full consecration  
 & entire sanctification. "The  
 blood of Jesus Christ his Son  
 cleanseth us from all sin."  
 The love side of the Gospel  
 is to be presented & the wrath  
 side; the justice as well as  
 the mercy side. A one-sided  
 Gospel will grow a one-sided  
 people; a whole Gospel

will develop a broad Christian Church.

The ministers mission devolves upon him the duty of teaching in the fullest sense of the word. Preaching is said to be "teaching." But the teaching preacher has a much wider field in which to labor than the mere preacher. Men must be educated physically, intellectually & morally as well as spiritually & in this great work the man of God must act his part. The true educator of men.

In many parts of our own, as well as in foreign lands, a higher standard of morality must be reached before the religion of the Lord Jesus can have full control of the heart. Paul preached the Gospel & men were converted under his masterly sermons but many of those converts were very poor Christians - from the fact that they were living in a very low state of morality. He who brings men to Christ has just commenced the work that must be done if they

are to be pillars in the temple of God. The minister must take the babes in Christ under his watchful care as a mother does her new-born babe, & with the tenderness of an angel he must care for them, physically, intellectually, morally & spiritually, until they are made strong in Christ Jesus. He who fails here fails to fulfil his mission. If the minister does his duty, as a divine teacher, there will be but few backsliders in his church, a sound & pure reli-

gious life must have a true moral basis upon which it stands, & that moral foundation should be strengthened by an intellectual broadening. No one should be better fitted for this work than the messenger of the cross...

As a man of God sent forth by the Lord of hosts - it is his duty to put forth every effort to raise the Church above the mean & low plain of race prejudice. This monster, prejudice, must be destroyed, if the Church is to fulfil its

mission. Race prejudice is ran-  
part in our church, & it is a  
reflection upon Christ & a curse  
to humanity. This prejudice is  
thoroughly rooted in the church  
today - & he who denies it is  
blind to the truth. All high  
sounding resolutions & gush of  
eloquence presented & display-  
ed in our public gatherings,  
about the colored man being  
a man & is entitled to the  
same rights & privileges of oth-  
er men, do not blot out the  
fact that the Methodist  
Episcopal Church does make

distinctions on account of color,  
• & I, for one, know it. Shame  
on the church that refuses to  
a brother, in its fold, the same  
rights & privileges, & the respect  
it gives to others for no other  
reason than, that the brother  
thus denied has a dark skin.  
Such actions indicate that it  
is a crime to have a black  
skin. If this be true, then I  
would respect the man who  
would hate God for making  
the man black. If there has  
been any wrong done by mak-  
ing the black man - let us

hate the wrong doer & not  
 the wrong. He who does other-  
 wise acts unwisely, unbecoming  
 a Christian, & is at fault in  
 heart. It is either a sin to  
 be black - or a sin to ostrac-  
 cize a man because he is  
 black. God man the black  
 man, therefore it is not a sin  
 to be black, & he who hates  
 a man because he is black  
 is a sinner. He who says  
 that the soul of a colored man  
 is as precious in God's sight  
 as that of a white man, &  
 then acts contrary to that.

statement is a hypocrite.

● But this very thing is done daily in our Church & let him deny it who can.

The Church is ready to, yea, does criticise & belittle private individuals & the Government when competent colored men are ostracized & refused employment on the color line; and at the same time she bars her pulpits, closes her book rooms & other places of trust against the man whom she calls "brother" - simply because he has a black skin.

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Such conduct is enough to make an angel blush & should be branded as an outrage upon decency & a sin against God, & he who makes it any thing less is not worthy of the name of a Christian - much less that of a minister of Jesus. If God is no respecter of persons, then what right has such an insignificant worm as man to set himself up as a respector, & that position taken on the ground of color? No one, save a fool or a knave, would claim any such right.

But he who says our Church  
is not a respecter of persons on  
the color-line, - is either de-  
ceived or false-hearted. The  
Government has done little is  
still doing more towards car-  
rying out the principles of equal  
rights to the colored man than  
the Methodist Episcopal  
Church has done or is will-  
ing to do. There are many good  
& true men in the Church  
who look upon man as a man  
irrespective of color. But  
there are very many more in  
the Church who are not will-

ing to respect the colored man  
as a man, yea, many of them  
hate him because he is colored.

We have heard enough said  
about no distinction on  
the color-line to make an angel  
believe that there is where we  
stand to-day; but until the  
Church practices what she  
preaches, Satan will continue  
to laugh at her hypocrisy &  
all good men will point the  
finger of scorn at such bald  
faced hypocrisy. The good &  
true men in the Church who  
see this hydra-headed mon-  
ster, prejudice, walking about

with a high head, are not to flee from the beast & take shelter else where. It is our duty to take up the rod of justice & truth & strike heavy blows, thick & fast, until every head shall fall from the body of the monster. This work must be done, if the church is to take possession of the world for Christ, & the sooner the better. One of the greatest reasons why the church does not accomplish any more than it does is because it is loaded down with

race prejudice, partiality &  
hypocrisy. Let her stop &  
 unload this brigt of the  
Devil & get brigt with  
 Gospel grace - peah from the  
 throne of glory - & she can say  
 to the mountains "Be ye re-  
 moved, & be ye cast into the  
 sea; & it shall be done." It  
 is absolutely impossible for  
 the Church to take the world  
 for Christ until she is  
completly His. She may use  
 all the money & talent at  
 her command, & expect great  
 things to result there from;

but the returns, in the future,  
 as in the past, will be com-  
 paratively void, - heathenism  
 & wickedness will continue to  
 lie at her doors. Home & a  
 road, until she gets upon  
 the plain where Christ would  
 have her be. That man  
 must be estimated by the  
 purity of his heart - or as he  
 imitates Christ - & not accord-  
 ing to the color of his skin -  
 or the texture of his hair -  
 nor even according to his  
 intellectual abilities. Intellect  
 is a grand thing when it is

sanctified; but too much stress  
 is laid upon it when it is  
worldly & devilish. I know  
 that I am shut out from places  
 in the gift of the <sup>church</sup>, because I  
 am a colored man, & others  
 are put into those places, not  
 because they are better qual-  
ified than I, - but because  
 they are white. I feel that  
 it is my duty to fight these  
 evils while I live or until  
 the last foe expires; & if I  
 should die at the block,  
 my life will be given for  
 the right & I shall die happy.

The world is to be converted to Christ by the Church. But why is it that we accomplish ~~so~~ <sup>so</sup> little ~~more~~ in this direction? Let God give the answer. "If thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." It is the duty of every minister of Christ to ~~smite~~ <sup>smite</sup> sin where ever he finds it, in the Church as well as out of it, & he who fights sin in the world & overlooks it in the Church - is recreant to duty & fails to accomplish his mission.

The minister is responsible for the work assigned <sup>him</sup> ~~to his~~.  
The church should hold him accountable for the work intrusted to his care. When an ambassador of the state fails to perform the duties devolved upon him, he is recalled & another sent in his place. Shall the church be less true to her trust than the state? But the minister is not only responsible to the church for the performance of his duties but must give an account to

God. The Lord has sent his  
 messengers forth to preach  
 the Gospel to every human being  
 irrespective of race, color,  
 or previous condition. Christ  
 was no respecter of persons; &  
 the man who is a respecter  
 of persons is a sinner. "But  
 if ye have respect to persons,  
 ye commit sin & are convinced  
 of the law as transgressors."  
 This is the express declara-  
 tion of the Bible, & yet many  
 ministers are continually  
 committing this sin. He who  
 condemns the use of tobacco,

Lying, stealing, swearing & the  
 like sins & does not con-  
 demn & strive to destroy the  
 abominable sins of cast &  
race prejudice, sadly fails  
 to fulfil his mission &  
 should be called to an ac-  
 count by the Church. Is it  
 right & manly to overlook  
 these evils or to keep still  
 about them - for fear that  
 some fastidious church  
 member might be offended?  
 God sends his ministers  
 forth to battle against sin  
 & to overthrow it, if by so

doing an individual member, or a church, or even a whole denomination that may bear the name of Christ - is overthrown. All such persons & all such churches ought either to be set right or put to one side. They are dead weights upon the true & the good. Men of God, let us awake to the all importance of our mission, & go forth to do our duty, our whole duty & nothing but our duty - & let God take care of the consequences.

There are hard battles to fight,  
enemies to rout, victories to  
win, souls to save, rough  
places to make smoother,  
crooked places to straighten,  
gullies to fill up, mountains  
to cut down, dead to  
be made alive, & lost to be  
found. This work cannot be  
done neither by idle nor  
timid hands. The minister  
is to fulfil his mission by  
going forth fearlessly to do  
his duty. Having a great love  
for humanity, justice & truth,  
an ardent desire for the

intellectual + moral improvement of the race, - a glowing zeal for the destruction of sin in every shape + form, - an enthusiasm to be Christ-like in thought - word + deed, - + a holy ambition to carry the Gospel of salvation + peace to dying men until the sound thereof shall be heard in every land proclaimed from every mountain - top - hillside + valley, that its kiss of peace may touch every lip + leave its

impress upon every heart,  
 so that the isles shall be  
 glad & the deserts & wastes  
 of sin shall blossom with  
 the white roses of Gospel-  
 truth, - & every voice shall  
 join in the grand old an-  
 gelic chorus - "Glory to God  
 on high, peace <sup>on earth</sup> good will  
 towards men!"

Thomas B. Snowden

May 14. 1851.