

**AN ADDRESS DELIVERED TO THE
CANDIDATES FOR HOLY ORDERS
IN THE DIOCESE OF BARBADOS
AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS**

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An address delivered to the candidates for holy orders in the diocese of Barbados and the Leeward Islands by William Hart Coleridge

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WILLIAM HART COLERIDGE

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MY CHRISTIAN BRETHREN,

AFTER the satisfactory examination which you have respectively passed before the Archdeacon, your subscription to the Articles of the Church, and your declaration of true and undivided allegiance to the King, it might seem improper in me to detain you for a moment from those solemn reflections, which must be now pressing with so much weight upon your minds, and from that secret communion, which you would hold, with your own hearts,

and with God in prayer, prepara-
Exod. xi. 12, 13. tory to the Service of
Luke vi. 12, 13.
Acts xiii. 2, 3. the ensuing day.

In that Service the duties, the difficulties, and the awfulness of the ministerial office are exhibited in the words of Holy Scripture : and I would take this opportunity of recommending in the strongest manner to each of you a stated recurrence to this service, at least on every anniversary of your ordination, as to a documentary evidence of promises made by you before God and your brethren, a test of past faithfulness, and a guide for your future conduct.

Comprehensive, however, and affecting as this service is, it nei-

Consult " Arch-
 bishop Secker's In-
 structions to Candi-
 dates for Orders
 after their subscrib-
 ing the Articles."

ther enters into all the *particulars* of a Clergyman's duty, nor touches on several matters which are highly important in their effects, though too familiar to be made the subject even of a public address: it states, *generally*, what a Christian minister ought to be in spirit and in practice, but leaves the regulation of his conduct under *peculiar* circumstances of time and place to his own prudence, aided by the suggestions of his ecclesiastical Superiors. At *all* times, and in *all* places, it is required of the spiritual steward, that he "be found faithful;" yet must he, in the discreet and conciliatory spirit of the Apostle, strive with the help of God's grace, and without any com-

promise of principle to "be all things to all men, that he may by all means save some*." He that

1 Cor. iv. 1—5.

ix. 19—23.

x. 33.

Ezek. iii. 17—21.

* "As men are to be dealt with after that manner, as may best serve to reclaim them, I shall use all the proper ways I can think of to bring about that end. In my reproofs I will humble myself to the lofty and great; be sharp to the presumptuous; meek, gentle and full of entreaty (as there is occasion) to all: and I hope, that when men see I am purely disinterested from any worldly consideration whatever, and rebuke them principally to win them to piety and eternal glory, they will not take it ill, but close in with my entreaties, and be reformed."

—*Parochial Pasturage, by a Presbyter of the Church of England, in a letter to his friend, 1722.*

Let not the reverence of any man cause you to sin against God: but in the matter of souls, being well advised, be bold and confident; but abate nothing of the honour of God, or the just measures of your duty to satisfy the importunity of any man whatever,—and God will bear you out.—Bp. Taylor's "*Advice to his Clergy.*"

would succeed in his ministry, must acquaint himself with the state and temper of his parish, and be content to *feel his way* before he ventures on any important measure; must labour to win the *affections* of his parishioners before he admonishes them; must be scrupulously attentive to the discharge of his *own* duties, that he may the more confidently press upon his flock the performance of theirs: must watch his opportunity that he may be heard the more gladly: must yield in trifles that he may carry greater matters: must neither needlessly offend the prejudices of his people, nor unjustifiably encourage them in their errors: must point out their faults with tenderness; in-

struct their ignorance with patience ; tend on them in their afflictions with affectionate solicitude ; and ever in his visits among them shew that interest in their *temporal*, which may enable him to exert a salutary influence over them in their *spiritual*, concerns.

The Diocese in which your ministry will be exercised, is divided into so many and distant portions, that in no one Colony can any very numerous body of Clergy be collected : and even under the most favorable circumstances, the nature of the climate, the badness of the roads, and the want of proper conveyance will prevent that frequent and unrestrained *personal* communication with members of

your own profession, which must ever add so materially to a Clergyman's own comfort, and by the mutual interchange of pastoral experience, advance the cause of religion among his people. Much must consequently be left to your own discretion, and you will have need to pray fervently for God's Spirit to be with you, and to consult diligently the Scriptures and the writings of our most approved Divines, and to apply carefully to the Rubrics and Canons of your Church, for direction in the discharge of your ministerial duties.

Wherever your station may be, you can neither expect much society, nor conscientiously engage in it. Your chief acquaintance should