

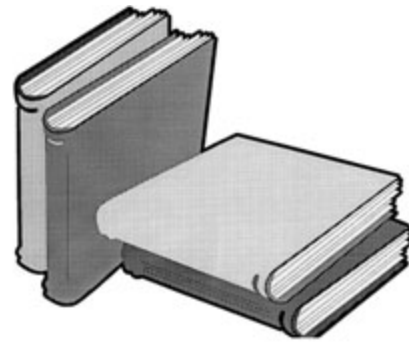
The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Issue 1008

The Minister's Whole Business.

A second lesson from John 6:1-14,
The feeding of the 5000.

We have, for another thing, in this miracle, *a lesson about the office of ministers.* We see the apostles receiving the bread from our Lord's hands, after He had blessed it, and distributing it to the multitude. **It was not their hands** that made it increase and multiply, but their Master's. It was His almighty power that provided an unailing supply. It was their work to receive humbly, and distribute faithfully.

Now here is a lively emblem of **the work which a true minister of the New Testament is meant to do. He is not** a mediator between God and man. **He has no power** to put away sin, or impart grace. His whole business is **to receive** the bread of life which His master provides, and **to distribute** it among the souls among whom he labours. **He cannot** make men value the bread, or receive it. **He cannot** make it soul-saving, or life-giving, to anyone. This is not his work. For this he is not responsible.

His whole business is **to be a faithful distributor of the food which his Divine Master has provided**; and that done, his office is discharged.

J. C. Ryle, Commentary on John, 1865, p. 325.
In the church library.