

of abstract ethics or political economy, the preacher has mistaken his vocation. If the handling of them consist of indiscriminate and sensational denunciation of parties and interests, or of gross personalities, the case is still worse. But if the minister keeps the relation of the soul to God in its central place and shows the bearing of faith in Christ on such practical issues, then the canons of true preaching sustain him.

It is asked still further, "Is the preacher never to denounce public sin?" Yes, but here again much depends on the man and on the method. Ordinarily, while these subjects may be referred to as illustrations of that widespread sinfulness which it is the mission of the Gospel to cure, the pulpit must deal mainly with states and attitudes of the human soul, which are deeper than all these, and which, if they are right, will find their outlet in righteousness in this and every other direction. No injustice can long stand before the deepening of the spiritual life of those who have wittingly or unwittingly perpetrated it. If by denunciations of sin a preacher induces a man to forsake a hundred forms of it and his heart remain unchanged, the pastor has still the labors of Sisyphus before him. The sinner, although temporarily reformed, has a thousand possibilities of iniquity inside which may burst forth at any moment. But he who has been the instrument of re-creating a man through the truth, has founded future goodness upon a firm basis, which the mere teacher of morals or denouncer of sin can never establish.

It is said sensational subjects attract to church people who would not otherwise go there, and when you have them present you can preach the gospel to them. This seems to justify the statement of a teacher of homiletics, "Advertising sermons is a flag of distress." Apart from that, is it so that those people who are attracted by strange titles hear the gospel? In some cases no doubt they do, but ordinarily if the preacher sets himself in all sober earnest to that task the crowd that was drawn by the advertising will not soon return to him. He must continue to amuse them if he is to keep