

EMPHATIC.

To arrest the attention of men it is necessary to use great emphasis. Especially is this true when desirous of arousing an interest in any subject which affects, or professes to affect, their spiritual welfare. Much more, if the subject in hand runs counter to their usual current of thought, is some extreme form of emphatic utterance necessary to gain full attention.

We once undertook to draw attention to the real meaning of Christ's words when He said, "It is *expedient* for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart I will send Him unto you." In our talk we tried to draw attention to the great contrast here instituted between the benefits to man of His own bodily presence in the world and the advent of the Holy Spirit to remain a constant Companion, Teacher and Empowerer with every individual who would so accept Him.

We dwelt on the manifest advantages the disciples possessed in the familiar presence of Jesus in their midst, advantages far in excess of all previously given to man, and vastly superior to those enjoyed by modern Christians when the Comforter was not permitted to have His proper place with the individual, as described by the Saviour. Then we tried to show that all these advantages, so great and glorious in themselves, were inferior to those enjoyed by individual Christians who recognized the presence of the Holy Ghost in their lives after the pattern of Christ's description. Then we drew attention to the fact that sighing after the bodily presence of Christ in some millennial age, as attendant with superior advantages to what we may now possess in our personal walk in the Spirit, was in reality sighing after something necessarily inferior to what was now possible, and simply and only indicated the fact that said aspirants had neglected to use the advantages now within their reach.

Well, we had put those thoughts before the audience with what force we could, after an argumentative style, but we are sure there would have been a

very dull apprehension, if any, of the thoughts we wished to draw their attention to, had we not finally emphasized them by the, to them, startling statement that if Christ should now descend to Jerusalem, there to start a thousand year visible reign on the earth, we would not take the trouble to cross the ocean to pay Him a visit. This statement of the same truth but in the form of a parable at once aroused attention. Indeed there was quite a little commotion caused, and several were aroused to definite and public opposition, who, we are sure, would have otherwise treated the subject with comparative indifference.

This incident also confirmed the teaching of Christ in another direction. It so happened that this holiness meeting was one which we had very seldom attended, although there was generally present a congregation of between one and two hundred, for the reason that the minister who led it as a part of his other church services showed unmistakable signs of not wishing us to take a responsible part in the gathering.

However, this time we went by special revelation, and were not surprised when we heard the pastor relate how he had been utterly unable to arrange his thoughts for addressing the meeting on this occasion, that whenever he essayed so to do our name and personality came up to his consciousness as if it were a call to him to send a request to us to come and lead the meeting. This inability to arrange his thoughts, he added, was still with him and as he now saw us present he would (we remark here for the first and last time) request us to lead the meeting.

Now this strange, apparently divine sanction upon our presence and teaching seemed to have not the slightest weight with those who were startled into the consideration of the subject in hand. Their antagonism we are certain was as pronounced as if there had been no such manifestation of divine superintendence in the matter.

It is true that personally we do not attach the importance which formerly we did to such supernatural attestations of truth, but we were then speaking to a pastor and people who gave great