

presentation from the pulpit of the teachings of Scripture on this subject is a help that is greatly needed. There are scores of aged Christians who soon expect to join in the new song in the upper sanctuary, but who, during a long life of faithful attendance in the courts of God's house, have never heard this matter adverted to, much less fully discussed in the pulpit. If ministers are to preach the whole Word, they must give due attention to those numerous portions of Scripture which deal with praise. And this duty is strongly enforced by the fact that praise has a vital connection with the revival and promotion of spiritual life in the Church. In the dark ages the Church was silent and songless, almost, and so was it almost spiritually dead. With the Reformation there came a mighty revival, and that spiritual spring-time, that dawn of a new day was marked by a new spirit of praise (partly the cause and partly the effect), so that, it is said, "whole villages in Germany became resonant with sacred song." And so far is this from being exceptional that the history of the Church seems to bear out the striking statement of Cotton Mather, in which he said, "It is remarkable that when the kingdom of God has been making any new appearance, a mighty zeal for the singing of psalms has attended it and assisted it." Would ministers have a revival of spiritual life in the Church? Then let them seek by their teachings to revive the spirit of praise as well as the spirit of prayer.

As to practical instruction, the home should be the primary school, and the mother the first teacher. Let the children's first songs be sacred songs; and let the aim of parents be to educate their children to sing to God and for God. One tithe of the time and expense devoted to secular music would, if employed in this direction, make a vast change for the better.

The family altar should also be a place of instruction. With the reading of the Word and prayer there should always be the singing of the songs of Zion.

The public schools likewise furnish opportunities for instruction in sacred music which should not be overlooked, as this is a part of the official programme of studies.

The Sabbath school and the weekly prayer meeting may also be taken advantage of; explanation of the hymns and psalms, and practice in singing them, sometimes taking the place of the review,