

The one thing, therefore, to be intensely emphasized to every eager ministerial apologete, before he enters the pulpit to bang away at assaulting unbelief, is this : *Be sure of your guns.*

In brief, the following points seem to get their ample warrant from our discussion :

1. Apologetics have a legitimate place in the pulpit, for they are in the Word which every ambassador for Christ is commissioned to preach.

2. Chiefly, the pulpit should be used for attack. Preaching should be aggressive rather than defensive. This is the genius of Christianity. This is the spirit of a conquering church. Holding the fort is necessary. But the bulk of apologetic may well be outside the pulpit. Let the printed attack be answered by the printed defense. But this is not at all to be understood as meaning that the pulpit is to be forever occupied with "cries of alarm" and "Come to Jesus." It means the unfolding of fundamental truths; the fathoming of fathomless depths, and the scaling of scaleless heights; the intense insistence on duty; the taking some things for granted in the profound conviction that they already have the grip of conscience; and the fervid, tremendous pressure of the gospel's claims, charging on men's judgments and hearts with truth that is believed to have behind it all the power of the infinite God.

3. As error is championed by the ripest scholarship, truth must be alike championed. When apology is undertaken in the pulpit it should be with full equipment, with thorough knowledge of the situation, with trust in God and with assurance of victory. The supernatural in Christian conflict is wholly consistent with the use of means under the law of adaptation. God is not arbitrary, though sovereign. He will not perform a miracle in the interests of intellectual indolence or ignorant assumption.

4. After all, the best defense of Christianity in the pulpit is a consecrated, Christ-like life, filled with "the spirit of glory and of God." This is an apologetic possible to every pulpit : to prove the resurrection by the resurrection wrought in the preacher's soul; to show in his self-sacrificing and cross-signed life "*the print of the nails.*"

II.—THE STUDY OF WORDSWORTH'S POETRY.

By PROF. J. O. MURRAY, D.D., DEAN OF PRINCETON COLLEGE.

EMERSON, in his essay on "Books," after laying down the postulate that, "for the most part, they work no redemption in us," proceeds to give three practical rules in regard to their use :

1. Never read any book that is not a year old.
2. Never read any but famed books.
3. Never read any but what you like.