

but give no restful or satisfactory answers." If we can but teach our people to understand and love the Bible, it will be its own best defender and defence.

Our age craves freshness and variety. It will not tolerate

" * * * Sabbath drawlers of old saws,
Distilled from some worm-cankered homily."

Freshness and variety are to be gained by such a painstaking study of the Bible as shall enable the preacher to bring forth out of the treasury things new as well as old, and such a use of the illustrations furnished by science, literature, and daily life as shall set even the old truths in a new light. Above all things our age demands practical preaching. Men are busy, hurried, weary. They want a preaching which will help them amid the temptations of their eager, rushing life, calm their troubled spirits, quicken their consciences, and make the blessed Saviour a constant presence by their side. There is a danger that in trying to satisfy the vast and complicated demands of our times, intellectual, social, spiritual, the preacher dissipate his energies, and fail to give unity to the impression which he produces. With all variety of method, his aim must be still the same, to preach Christ, to make Christ the centre of all thought, the source of all life, the object of all desire, the goal of all endeavor.

The paramount demand of this age, the lesson of all the ages, is *earnestness in the preaching of Christ*. My conception of true earnestness is very far from

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