

with intensified emotion; the fixed attention of the hearer, to follow the speaker in his strain of thought, unites the energies of the preacher on his subject, and draws him out in expansive thought. Again the impressions thus made on the mind of the preacher by the intelligence of the people do not terminate with the public service of the day, but they follow him with permanent effect into his private abode or retirement, and there induce him to apply himself to study with unwearied perseverance; to mature himself in all forms of knowledge by reflective meditation, laborious search, and extensive reading; to keep himself up with the age by due attention to all that is going on in the literary, scientific and theological world; to equip himself for his work by gathering materials from all sources, casting them into proper form, and clothing them with proper expression—all to meet the demands which the intelligence of the people make upon him as their instructor in divine things. On the contrary, the ignorance of the people acts upon the preacher with very different effect. That vacant look represses the flow of emotion in the preacher; that stolid gaze freezes up the expression of his

thoughts; that listless indifference, or want of interest deadens the energies of his mind. Ignorance, indeed, acts upon him as a drag in his preparations for the pulpit; it weighs upon him like an incubus, in all his studies, crushing the intellectual vigour out of him. It tends, in all respects, to bring him down to the dead level of themselves. If the abilities, attainments, and accomplishments of the pulpit are not of a high order, as it is often asserted by the people, the cause of that proceeds from themselves. In this as in all other things, the article varies according to the demands of the market. If a superior article is in demand, there it is to supply the want; if an inferior article is wanted, there it is to suit the convenience or taste of the purchaser. So it is in regard to the demands made in the pulpit. If you would therefore have a strong and progressive ministry, be ye yourselves intelligent, and aim at still higher intelligence than you have yet attained, and you will, without doubt, find your minister equal to the requirements of your intelligence, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(To be Continued.)

Poetry.

SEED-TIME AND HARVEST.

Beneath the dull November sky,
 With the cold rain falling drearily,
 And the bleak wind moaning and shrieking by,
 The seed o'er the land is cast;
 And in grave-like furrows the grain doth lie
 Till the weary months be past.