

victory, the week has known will add power and richness to our sermon; and if we have been indolent, or selfish, or sinful all week, by so much will our Sabbath discourse suffer in range and power.

It may be some will shrink from this high call and choose an easier way. There is an easier road to present popularity. It were a simple matter to draw a crowd. Itching ears are easily tickled. But, who that prostitutes himself for vulgar ends, and plays fantastic tricks before high Heaven, can answer conscience, or think calmly of the Master's reckoning day? Wood, hay, stubble—all this bulks in the world's eye, but the searching fire will make short work of it at last.

The true preacher will not complain if the conditions of success are exacting. The man who is in earnest and has a passion for preaching; the man whose sermon deals with the awful truths of God, eternity, and human destiny, having for its purpose the awakening of conscience, the renewing of will, the transforming of character in order to the eternal salvation of the human soul, and having for motives the deathless passion and constraining love of Jesus Christ, the joy of success and the terrible possibility of failure; the man who has learned by experience how difficult it is to produce a really excellent sermon, a discourse at once speculative and practical, imaginative and moral, designed to affect human character, not as the political appeal, for the hour, but profoundly and permanently, and that, too, in an age more than any preceding age critical and fastidious in its tastes, exacting in its demands, distinct and rapid in its mental processes, intolerant of dulness and impatient of circumlocution, clamoring for a scientific method, a concise statement, a direct movement, an age, withal, busied about a hundred things besides religion; the man who is brought face to face with the intrinsic dignity, splendid opportunity and tremendous responsibility of the modern pulpit, will regard no toil too great, no method too severe, no expedient too trivial, if it but make his pulpit discourse a little more thorough in instruction, a little more powerful in appeal, a little more winning in persuasion.

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