

tian pulpit. The minister's business is to stir, to quicken, to revive, to reform and to save. The times call for faithful, pungent and direct soul-dealing after the manner of the Reformers and the Apostles. The Nathans who can disclose to the Davids their sins; the Pauls who can make the Philips tremble, and the Peters who can prick to the heart the indifferent multitude are as much a necessity to-day as in the past. The call of Christ is to awake out of spiritual sleep, and his ambassadors must speak in trumpet tones to a drowsy Church and careless sinners."

I have tried to make my ministry one of exposition of Scripture. I know it has failed in many respects, but I will say that I have endeavored from the beginning to the end to make that the characteristic of all my public work. And I have tried to preach Jesus Christ, and the Jesus Christ not of the Gospels only, but the Christ of the Gospels and the Epistles; He is the same Christ. I believe that the one thing the world needs is redemption, the power of the Gospel on the individual soul; and that men know they need it. Dr. Johnson once said in his wise way, "Nothing odd lasts," and I believe that, too. Nothing odd lasts, but Christ lasts, and men's sins last, and men's needs last; and we must preach Christ and Him crucified, the Saviour of mankind. And I have tried to preach Christ as if I believed in Him, not as if I had hesitations and peradventures and limitations. And I have tried to preach Him as if I lived on Him; and at the bottom of it all, that we shall ourselves feed on the truth that we proclaim to others.—Dr. MacLaren.

Repeating Sermons.

A sermon may be greatly improved by repetition if it be a memoriter one; and the reading of it may be improved with each time the manuscript is employed, if it be read. George Whitefield delivered some of his famous sermons more than sixty times, and Massillon recited some of his one hundred times. Edward Everett delivered his famous address on Washington all over the United States. Wendell Phillips spoke his "Lost Arts" more than a thousand times. Some sermons should be repeated several times to the same people. Paul ordered that his epistles be read to other churches than those to which they were originally sent.

Stephen Olin, one of the most extraordinary preachers, when president of Wesleyan University, preached a sermon on the text "Train up a child in the way he should go." A person was so impressed when he first heard it that he followed Dr. Olin three times, and on each occasion he preached the same sermon. After the fourth hearing of it the gentleman called upon Dr.

Olin and asked why a man of his ability confined himself to the same sermon. To which the president replied, "If you were to appear once, and only once, and on an important occasion were to shoot at a target, which would you take, a new gun or a trusty one that had never missed fire?" Said the man, "I suppose I should take the trusty gun." Said Dr. Olin: "'Train up a child' is my trusty gun, and I wish to promote the cause of education."

It is, however, a practice that materially impedes growth, and melancholy instances could be produced of men who, relying on previous preparations grew feebler as the years passed, and prematurely sank into imbecility.—N. Y. Christian Advocate.

"Reform or Resign."

In his book on foreign missions, Dr. A. C. Thompson says, "The church that is not missionary in spirit must repent or wane; the pastor who is not should reform or resign."

Truer words were never written. A church may grow in numbers and in social influence of a worldly character while it has no missionary spirit; but it is waning in vital life, and if it does not repent it, like the church at Sardis, will die. A preacher may be growing in learning and eloquence and in attractiveness, drawing crowds to his pulpit; but if he is destitute of the missionary spirit he is also destitute of soul-saving power, is out of place in the Christian ministry, and should "reform or resign."

The key to the situation is the pastor. A pastor who is thoroughly missionary in spirit can in a surprisingly short period wake up and enthuse the most indifferent congregation. But it cannot be done by preaching one sermon a year on Missions. There must be "line upon line, and precept upon precept." The Sunday school and the Y. P. S. must be organized for missionary work; but first of all the pastor must be himself baptized with the spirit of Missions; he must feel that his commission requires him to "go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature;" that the Jerusalem at which he is to begin is his pulpit, but that the outermost bounds of his parish are "all nations."

How this thought exalts the ministry and enlarges the scope of its influence and power! Brother, your immediate parish may be small, and you may long for a larger one, but it is larger now by far than you think. "Lift up your eyes and see;" behold, the whole world-field is white with the harvest, and invites you to gather golden sheaves. Your parish includes the foreign mission fields of your church, and all missionary territory within the bounds of your own country. See to it that lines of halloved, saving influence and power radiate directly from your pulpit into all these countries.—Exchange.