

which should be found in the man worthy of holding the office of elder or bishop. "He must be blameless as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, no brawler, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but given to hospitality, a lover of good, sober-minded, just, holy, temperate; holding the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in the sound doctrine and to convict the gainsayers." (R.V.)

These categories are still in force, and they peremptorily exclude weaklings, and fully warrant the conclusion that men should be chosen for the ministry mainly on the ground of exceptionally high character, well attested piety, warm and generous sympathies, missionary zeal and intellectual ability. These great essentials, along with definite evidence of aptitude to teach, and to organize, and govern men, should co-exist in every candidate. Piety alone is not enough. There are very many pious creatures, whose sincerity and fervor we should never venture to question, who are wholly unfit to be leaders in parishes and public teachers of the Gospel and of Christian ethics.

On the other hand, mere intellectuality of the highest order, apart from love of souls, love of truth, a broad and firm grasp of it, and the Spirit of God in the heart, does not qualify a man to be an ambassador of Christ. What is needed for this exalted service is intellectuality and spirituality united, strong sanctified common sense, enriched by ample stores of knowledge and wisdom, secular and sacred, and the exercise of a true spirit of self-abnegation, which is more arduous and more commendable than the efforts of genius. The productions of a brilliant imagination may dazzle the senses, and social standing based upon large possessions may elicit the admiration of multitudes, but it is only those who immolate self upon the altar of lofty principle that command real and lasting influence for good.

Given in the pulpits of christendom men of the type indicated by these few sentences, and we shall soon hear less about non-church-goers, empty pews, and the adoption of sensational devices for popularizing the gospel.