

foundest and most far-seeing wisdom. One is always sure of an attentive audience when he is battering some iniquity of the Tory policy before a crowd of joyful Liberals, with a few Conservatives scattered about swallowing their chagrin as best they may.

When any average minister looks at his audience Sabbath after Sabbath and sees the dull, listless inattention of many of them to those thoughts on high themes which are the fruit of much labor, anxiety and prayer; and when he knows that there are subjects within his reach, on which he can speak with much more ease, which will cause every sleeper to open his eyes to their widest extent, and make the lounge's flesh creep upon his bones, he is sorely tempted to try it.

Most preachers who deal in sensationalism advertise their sermons under strange titles, which are evidently a bid for the attention of the crowd. "The Young Man in Love," "The Steamship 'Canada,'" "How to Choose a Wife," by a divinity student scarcely out of his teens, and "Salisbury as a Diplomat," are specimens of the pulpit themes we sometimes see in the newspapers. The taste of some such intimations is execrable. If we condemn the press for publishing such extensive reports of the prize fight, what shall we say of the minister who makes that same conflict the subject of his morning sermon in the house of God, even if he denounces its brutality and honestly tries to give the thing a spiritual twist at the end.

The pleas by which such subjects are defended ought to be carefully examined to see if they are sufficient to hold the structure which is built upon them. It is pleaded that to avoid all topics which might be considered secular would seriously narrow the range of preaching and exclude many themes discussed by the prophets and by our Lord Himself. Is there not often a crying need that a minister should deal with "Capital and Labor," "Better Homes for Working People," etc. To this it may be answered that it depends a good deal on how it is done. If these subjects are discussed from the standpoint