

This necessity of adapting the means to the end sought is also to be observed in relation to preaching. Tennyson caricatures the pulpit of the olden time in the following style, to which we refer, not to endorse the reflection it makes, but to illustrate the truth we wish to emphasize. He makes the "Northern Farmer," after the death of his wife, speak thus of the parson:—

"An' I hallus comed to's choorch afoor my Sally wur dead,
An' eerd un a bummin' away loike a buzzard-clock ower my yead,
An' I niver knaw'd what a mean'd, but I thout a ad summut to saay,
An' I thout a said what a out to a said, an' I coomed awaay."

No doubt it is quite possible for a person to be so indifferent as under the most favourable circumstances to enter and leave the house of God, without being able to furnish any correct idea of the truth preached in his presence. But it must be admitted that the lofty themes of the Gospel may be discussed in such a manner as will fail to reach the understanding of even an attentive hearer, who has not been trained to close and careful thought. Mr. Wesley mentions a pastoral call he made to the bedside of a dying man, who did not know that he possessed a soul. After some questioning, the man admitted having heard of a small bone in the back, which never decayed, and which he supposed must be the undying soul. And yet he had been a constant attendant upon the services of the parish church for a period of thirty years. Mr. Wesley also adds, he had there heard good sermons, too. We may well doubt the intelligence of the man, but we may also doubt the adaptation of the "good sermons" to which he had listened to the wants of the hearers.

As the name of Jesus Christ suggests the deepest need and highest hope of every soul, it must be the constant aim to exhibit Him in His relation to fallen men and their salvation. The range of topics here provided is as wide as the Bible itself. If we cross the Atlantic, and land on any part of the English coast, whether in some busy commercial centre, or some small secluded village, we will be sure to find a road thence to London. So from every part of the Word of God there is a thread of thought which leads to Jesus Christ, the grand central topic of every one of the inspired penmen.