

radically defective as in rhetorical discipline. For no one department of instruction do the colleges—not one, but all of them—make so inadequate provision in the number of teachers ; in none are the results of the instruction, on the whole, so unsatisfactory. In no graduates are these results more painfully apparent than in the occupants of our pulpits.

That the present required preparation for the ministry is either too elaborate or too protracted no one can prove. With science pushing its inquiries in every direction, with biblical criticism ever advancing, and with general intelligence diffusing itself in every quarter, no one can show that a more slenderly furnished clergy than we now have would be either more acceptable to the churches or more effective in their work. What we need is, first, not less learned or less able men than those who constitute the first class we have before named, but that these should have acquired more skill in using their learning and ability as preachers ; and, secondly, we need men with more learning and intellectual strength, but no less skill in preaching than are possessed by those who make up the second class above named ; and we may say that the men we have known of the first class have been no less emphatic in deploring their want of rhetorical skill than have the men of the second class been emphatic in their regrets for having given so little attention to those severer studies which would have developed their intellectual strength. With no whit less than the colleges are now giving of all that is solid and severely disciplinary in science and classical literature, pray let them give more instruction in English, and give it from the beginning to the end of their course. And let him whose chief business is to consist in addressing his fellow-men on themes of the gravest import, while striving honestly for ability to master the themes, make a no less profitable use of his leisure moments in familiarizing himself with the best productions in his own tongue, accumulating thereby, unconsciously it may be, a vocabulary of pure and simple English ; and then let him patiently and persistently, on every fit occasion that offers, habituate himself to public address. No training can ever take the place of that which one thus gives himself under the searching criticism of his own inwardly turned eye ; a training that, persisted in, never fails to bring the coveted end. And yet, after all, the one requisite to good preaching more essential than any or all others is the spirit that springs from strong conviction and an earnest purpose ; a quality whose absence is unfailingly fatal. Possessed of this quality, sermons that are only moderate in point of thought and form, if sincere, simple, direct, natural, and manly, will continue to fall neither on empty pews nor on unwilling ears.

---

MANY are ambitious of saying grand things—that is, of being grandiloquent. Eloquence is speaking out, . . . a quality few esteem and fewer aim at.—*Hare.*