

of his knowledge in his sermons, and never alludes to any discussion in the *Forum* or *Nineteenth Century*, still if he knows what they are saying about matters his preaching will have a different tone. It will not be one whit less evangelical, but it will have the power that comes when a man can say, "Yes, I have read what is to be said on the other side, and have not confined myself to systems of theology and commentaries."

I have said the periodical is the best way of introducing any one to a knowledge of what is going on in the world of to-day. It is the best because it is the quickest. Here are condensed articles touching on a variety of subjects, readable, prepared by specialists often in their several departments, and a few hours every month keeps one *en rapport* with what is doing in science or politics or philosophy or social science or moral reforms. Ministers are busy men. What time is left after the hard study on the sermon is taken up by the ceaseless round of parish visiting—that daughter of the horse-leech crying, "Give, give." There are, however, the spare minutes, the odd half-hour, perhaps the last before bed-time. If these can be utilized they amount to a great deal in the course of a year. They can be utilized in two ways. One way is to keep a book in hand which does not demand consecutive reading; a book, for instance, like Amiel's *Journal*, and taking a glance over its pages. Another way is to keep the periodical for such times and take an article for the spare half-hour. They thus become great economizers of time. And what is more, they will often save the necessity of going through a book. They give you in far shorter compass certain views which are important for you to know, and which you could know in any other way only by the longer process of reading through an entire volume. Economy of time is no small consideration for a hard-worked clergyman. But economy of money is no less important for many. For the price of a volume you can have the monthly for a year. Look now at the index when the year has closed and see what an amount of reading on a variety of subjects. A yearly issue of the *Contemporary* or the *Nineteenth Century* is in itself a little library. To gain the same amount of knowledge without the aid of the monthly would have cost twenty times the sum paid for subscription, to say the least. Not only is economy of time gained, but there is a mental relaxation also secured. The tired brain may find this in a good poem or a good novel, but it is quite as well found in a good periodical. What could more effectually take off the thoughts from the hard subjects of the next Sunday's sermon, or the trying case of that parishioner, than to read one of Kennan's articles on Siberian prisons? Surely this use of the periodical is too patent to need any further comment.

Allusion has already been made to its importance as embodying