

reclaim the devotees of vice, to counteract the spirit of worldliness, to bring the whole community nearer to the Spirit of Christ than we found it, is hard heart-breaking work. To accomplish it more than instruction is needed; instruction is a means to an end, viz., spiritual quickening. While it is wise to make every injunction to duty, or to the enjoyment of privilege, rest on a firm doctrinal basis, the great need of man is not knowledge but life. The worst man in Montreal knows more than the best man can do. Hence the crying need for power in the preacher, to arouse the dormant conscience and awaken the whole higher man. Almost every writer on preaching, has tried to analyze that element of ministerial efficiency which we call "power" and has failed. It has been pointed out that every kind of power is in its own nature indescribable. What is gravitation? Or magnetism? Or life? Do these forces not always elude a sensible and exhaustive definition? So does the preacher's power, yet it is a terribly real thing notwithstanding its mystery. One man says certain words and they are merely decent commonplace, another says them and they electrify an audience and awaken unquenchable desires after holiness and God. This spiritual energy may be present in a high degree along with very imperfect views of truth and the utter absence of all graces of speech. And it may be conspicuously absent from the most perfect and finished discourse. The Salvationist vehemently repeating his one idea at the street corner often

arouses to newness of life some utterly impervious to the appeals of the regular ministry. Have we not known students advised by their professors to turn aside to other callings because of their lack of gifts! But they persisted and behold some of them proved their Divine call by developing wonderful facility for moving men and rousing and organizing vast armies of workers. Again and again among our acquaintances we have seen illustrations of the sovereign grace of God which clearly indicated that, when the Holy Spirit is a factor in the case, we can never predict what the results may be. Therefore it well becomes us all to seek the Divine blessing of power by prayer, by reflection on the truth connected with it, by entire consecration to the service of God in helping men.

I have mentioned skill in adapting the truth, as an important qualification of the preacher in a complex age like the present. I can only hint at one or two directions in which there is scope for the application of this.

This age seems to demand

SPECIAL FRESHNESS AND VARIETY IN PULPIT TEACHING.

From the topics of those who advertise them beforehand, we learn the effort which is made to comply with this desire. While a very large number of these topics are chaste, appropriate, and timely, there seems to be scarcely a crime, or an execution, or a social scandal, or a prize fight which is not used by some sensation monger to pander to a vulgar taste and to swell his reputation and his church revenue