

well fed. For this purpose it is needful that we give due attention to books of devotion. Some find great help in *Imitation of Christ*, but it has been called a book of inaccessible heights, and I do not press that; and some are uplifted by the writings of the German mystics before the Reformation, but I do not especially urge these. There are, however, in our own time, books that are less tyrannical and better adapted to our own age. Of these we may mention the works of Andrew Murray, and the devotional writings of Henry Drummond, as well as *The Little Books on Religion*, edited by W. Robertson Nicholl, and *The Devotional Library*, published by Hodder & Stoughton. These are not, by any means, the only works on these subjects, and perhaps some pastors will be more greatly helped by works not here mentioned. But either these or some other devotional works should form part of a pastor's recognized reading, for no pastor can have power in the pulpit unless he is often led to the Mount of God; and there are some men who have special gifts in leading us across those uplands where no road can ever be surveyed by mere logic or scholarship, but where the soul finds that God who speaks with a still small voice.

It is hoped that nothing that has been said will lead any one to think that the task of the minister in his preaching is anything but the preaching of the Word of God. The only task that our Master has set us is to preach the Word, and everything else is to be sought only in so far as it helps us in this work. There are many books above referred to, that can never be distinctly brought into a sermon, while from others we may be able to glean only a stray anecdote or a stray quotation. But all will help to give that body to the preacher's thinking that tends to make a speaker masterful without the audience being able to tell why, and all will help to shed light upon the Book of Truth that it is our incomparable privilege to expound. If a book does not do this, the preacher should have nothing to do with it.

A few words as to how a minister should read, will have to bring our discussion to a conclusion. Most ministers will find it helpful to read by some system—either a course laid out for some degree, or a course that he marks out for himself. The advan-