

Another whose name we do not know, says:—Put the vim into it, brother! Wake up every slumbering faculty! It is God's work you are doing, and it will be heard of in eternity. Souls hang upon its success. The destiny of a soul may be determined by the development of your last resource. Strain every nerve. Leave no power unused. Heaven will reward all your toil with infinitude of gain.

A clergyman observing a poor man in the road breaking stones with a pick axe, kneeling to get at his work better, made the remark: "Ah, John, I wish I could break the stony hearts of my hearers as easily as you are breaking those stones." The man replied: "Perhaps, sir, you do not work on your knees."

The minister should regard every member of the church of which he is a pastor as a talent committed to his care by the Heavenly Master. He should labour with each talent so that the five may increase to ten and all may multiply many fold. If you only "hold your own" you are as the unprofitable servant who hid his Lord's money. Every member should be made the means of gaining one more—as many more as possible.

In order that the ministry may be efficient, says JOHN HARRIS, it must not only be pious and educated, it must be modified by a knowledge of present times, and adapted to the existing state of the church and of the world. Though Moses as the leader of Israel to Canaan had always to follow the movements of the supernatural pillar, during no two days of the whole forty years of his ministrations were his duties perfectly identical. Though Paul went through the world with nothing but the Cross of Christ, his mode of introducing and exhibiting that symbol of salvation differed with every new occasion. Had he cared nothing about success he would not have shown this versatility, and studied this adaptation; but so deeply was he convinced of the universal adaptation of the cross, and so supremely anxious to draw men to it, that he held it up in every variety of light and became all things to all men in order that he might win some.

In every age the chief duty of the minister has been to unveil the same cross.—Yet as each age has materially differed from all its predecessors, his duty has been to vary and adapt his ministry accordingly." What holds true of different ages holds true with respect to different countries, and different parts of the same country.

Of the preaching of Apostolic times Professor Islay Burns says in his history: "It was more historical and less doctrinal than the preaching of modern times. The business of the preacher in most cases was not so much to discuss the doctrine, as to tell the story of the cross. The whole teaching of the church as well as the whole life of the Christian, revolved around the person and history of Jesus. That was the Central Sun that vivified and illumined all. The preaching of the gospel was simply and literally the preaching of Christ; the proclaiming in the ears of a dying world all the preacher knew of Him who was the world's only life and hope. It was not a chain of principles but a recital of facts—of facts which bodied forth before men's eyes the living Saviour, and thus enabled them so to see the Son that they might believe in Him and live."

VINET, in his admirable work on *Homiletics*, says:—"When the servant of the Most High becomes through vanity the servant of men; when at the very moment he announces to them the counsels of God, he is preoccupied with the desire of their approbation; when he seeks solidity, pathos, unction, authority itself, from the secret desire of appearing to preach with solidity, pathos, unction and authority, then descending from the tribunal to the prisoner's stool, and an entire stranger to that noble independence which Paul expresses in these words:—"It is a light thing with me to be judged of you." he will in vain affect the tone of authority, he will not find it. The man who is overawed by men, was not made to inspire them with awe; he who trembles before them will not make them tremble; and if Peter when pronouncing his first sermon, his trial sermon if you please, had been pre-occupied with what concerned himself and with the judgment: