

ed prudent to pronounce such words like other people. The experience of some ministers seems to have been different.

More attention should be given to public speaking. The matter of many a sermon may be abundant and wholesome, but its form, logical, literary and rhetorical, is faulty. The preacher sets out as if he wished to fill up thirty or forty minutes time, rather than fasten conviction on the minds of his hearers. There is no definite aim, no marshalling of arguments to elucidate or prove a theme, and no appeals to lead to action, and hence the result is disappointing. Much more time should be given in college to the preparation and delivery of sermons. Excellent lectures on the theory of preaching may be given, and no doubt, are given, but only practice, plenty of practice, under an efficient professor and competent critic, can prepare a student for his life-work. Rare gems are frequently detected, where perhaps they would not be looked for, but the mass of the audience do not notice them, because they are uncut or because badly set.

Special grants have been given by Eastern congregations, missionary societies and individual members of the Church to support certain missions. In such cases, the missionary was expected to correspond with the congregation about his work, and so deepen and extend interest. It would scarcely be believed that some of these grants were lost because the missionary failed to write; and this not because they were unwilling, but because they thought themselves unable. Men have been appointed Conveners of Presbytery and Synod Committees and failed to report, because they could write nothing worthy of the occasion. It is not enough to impart knowledge, to dictate notes, that may perhaps never again be consulted after the examination is over, men should be drilled in composition; their

powers of expression, effective utterance, aptness to teach, should be cultivated; and though the stores of knowledge collected during a college course might be less bulky their ministry would likely be more fruitful and their lot in life more comfortable.

Complaints have been heard on the floor of the Assembly, from the West, that graduates and licentiates are not as familiar with the Bible as they should be. Men have been known to pass respectable examinations in Systematic Theology, Apologetics, Church History, &c., that came far short in their knowledge of the Word of God. Elders who have taken part in such examinations have refused acquiescence in the decision of the Presbytery to license, because candidates were so ignorant of the Scriptures. Considering the place the English Bible holds in the Church and community, considering how rich men like Arnold and Carlyle found it for literary purposes, considering how powerful an instrument it is for moral and religious ends in the hands of those who know how to use it, every effort should be made to make the student familiar with its structure and contents ere he leaves the seminary. The microscopical examination of a few chapters or books can never take the place of a mastery of the Book as a whole.

One winter the writer had charge of a mission in New York city; the Rev. Dr. Burrell, then a junior student in Union Theological Seminary was assistant. Dr. Hall, Dr. Harper, Mr. P. T. Barnum, and others, delivered a course of lectures. Lawyers, bankers, merchants and the rest attended. Mr. Burrell was appointed to select and read suitable portions of Scripture on such occasions. So appropriate were the selections, that some Christian people who attended regularly, were surprised at the richness and variety of the Word of God; and others (not Christians) were induced to read the book for its literary excellence. Whether a student can tell