

for some years watched young ministers, and had been distressed to see "In how many instances they had failed in this respect, being unable to make available the knowledge they had acquired by years of study. They had no power of voice, or style of delivery to make an impression on an audience."

The late Dr. Holland speaking on the same subject said:—
 "When a minister goes before an audience, it is reasonable to ask and expect, that he shall be accomplished in the art of expression; that he shall be not only a good writer, but a good speaker. . . . Multitudes of young men are poured out upon the country, year by year, to get their living by public speaking who cannot even read well."

In an article in *Fraser's Magazine*, an eminent writer, after proving "that the whole empire is under the influence of public speech" goes on to say "The fact is, however mortifying, it ought to be told that very few of the clergy know how to read." Another writer, this time in the *Cornhill Magazine*, having made the statement that the University men write Greek Iambics better than Sophocles, and would no more think of violating the pause than violating an oath, goes on to say "They (the Clergy) have learnt everything but to speak their own language."

We must remember that these complaints are not the outcome of our modern life or taste. As far back as the time of Dean Swift, the complaints we hear every day, were common. Indeed the Dean himself hoped that the time would come when "Churches would cease to be public dormitories, and when sleep would no longer be locked upon as the most convenient vehicle of good sense"

Sydney Smith in a later generation protested against the same evil. I find the following in the preface to the second volume of his sermons: "Preaching has become a bye word for a long conversation Is it the rule of oratory to balance style against the subject, and to handle the most sublime truths in the driest manner? Why call in the aid of paralysis to piety? Is sin to be taken from man as Eve was taken from Adam, by casting them into a deep sleep?"

It is impossible to set aside such complaints, to say nothing of the continual cry that is coming from all parts of the church.