

connection with the Church will bring them. In this condition they desire entertainment rather than instruction at the public service on Sabbath. And so the preacher is tempted to shape his preaching and his style of Church music to rouse their sleepy conventionalism and draw in others of the same kind if possible. For into church work as well as into everything else, the element of competition enters. There is a floating population in every community that will be attracted by the freshness and brilliancy of the most popular preacher, and the financial pressure on most congregations to-day, as well as other things, may lead them to wish their minister to make the utmost possible bid for the support of these people.

It is, therefore, constantly necessary to remind young preachers and the Christian public at large, that the church does not exist for the purpose of furnishing entertainment, but for instructing men in their duty towards God and their fellow men—to warn, rebuke and exhort human beings regarding their eternal interests and the consequences here and now of the everlasting verities. Certainly in the exposition of these truths there is ample room for freshness of thought, brilliancy and charm of diction and a lively and forcible connection of the Gospel with the living issues of thought and conduct in our own place and time.

Secular preaching, by which is meant worldly and unspiritual discourse, presents many attractions to a minister. It relieves him from what is often a hard and dry study, digging in the Scriptures for a broad and comprehensive view of all divine truth, keeping abreast of theological and ethical investigation, and interpreting both old and new truth to the moral and spiritual needs of men. It substitutes for this the reading of the daily press, a much easier and more congenial task. Here the preacher is helped to grasp the moral and political situation by some able journalist, who does all the hard thinking for him, and furnishes him with ready made positions which he can elaborate according to his predilections and which will look to all those of the same school of thinking as the pro-