

Montreal was due in drilling a minister, who was on his way to preach to a vacant congregation there on the following Sabbath, in the delivery of the sermons intended for the occasion. Other ministers would doubtless give a fair specimen of the sermons as ordinarily delivered : but they would likely suffer in the popular estimation for their honesty. Use some common-sense method of inquiry.

2. Increased faithfulness on the part of the eldership would lessen the liability to difficulties between pastor and people. In the reformed churches the eldership was regarded as embodying the principle of the people's right to a substantive part in the government of the church, and as a bulwark for the church against clerical domination. Our ministers have therefore a right to look for the support of the eldership in the general management of the affairs of the congregation and of the church, in harmony with the principles and practices set forth or warranted in the New Testament and the regulations provided by the church ; and the congregations have a right to look to the eldership for protection against any encroachment on their scriptural liberty and any unnecessary and irritating changes in established usages. The pastor may be a better judge of human nature generally than his elders ; but they are better judges of the actual opinions, tempers and expectations of the members of the congregations ; and even when they are satisfied of the propriety and desirableness of a change should firmly resist an innovation on existing usages until the people are educated up to the change ; but they should co operate in such education. There seems to be a tendency among our elders at the present time to become mere class leaders and public exhorters. I would not depreciate such work ; much good may be done thereby, and it should be done to the extent to which time and qualifications justify ; but it is secondary in their office, and there are others in the congregation who may do these things as well : and as the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one to profit withal, the opportunity should be furnished him for contributing his quota, in the Spirit, for the common good. I may be sure I would say and do many things better than they are said or done ; but it does not follow that it would be better for the congregation or the church that I should retain the saying and doing in my own hands.