

three volumes on the first shelf in your library. These volumes were written by Dr. Charles Hodge, of Princeton. Take one of them down and have a talk on the point with Hodge. If there is any point that Hodge can't throw light upon, you may find some difficulty in getting light even in Toronto. Brother, you will excuse us for saying that if you were on more familiar terms with Hodge, you might perhaps not sigh so much for society. Cultivate an acquaintance with Hodge.

There are some knotty points of Exegesis you would like to discuss with some one. Well, that is good work for a minister no doubt. Just take down Alford and Ellicott and Eadie and Hodge and go on with the discussion. If there is any better exegetical company in this country than these men this contributor has not heard of it.

Oh, but you want to speak about Homiletics. You want an occasional talk about texts and divisions and the best methods of making, delivering and applying sermons. That's right, brother. Stick to that. If some of our ministers talked more about sermons and less about committees it would be better for themselves and for the Church. "What did you preach on last Sabbath?" is a far more important question than "What committees are you on this year?" "How did you handle that subject" is a far more encouraging question coming from a minister than a question about some "case" because it shows his mind is working in the right way. All the old veteran ministers who worked thirty or forty years in one place were great on texts and divisions and talked very much about preaching. The typical Church lawyer always talks about preaching in a half apologetic way. He belittles the main part of his work and the people invariably belittle him. They do right in so doing. Now it must be admitted that it is a very stimulating and refreshing thing for a young minister to have an occasional talk with an enthusiastic sermonizer. Undoubtedly it is. You always leave him feeling that preaching is a great business. You leave some ministers feeling that preaching is a small business which should be proceeded with in an apologetic way. A minister who produces that impression should perhaps be expelled.

But we must come back to the brother we were addressing. You want a congenial spirit to discuss sermons with? Well, find one in your library. There is Shedd. Shedd is good. Talk a while with Shedd. Then take down Dabney. When you are tired talking to Dabney try Hoppin. If you don't enjoy the society of any of these take Phelps. If you don't enjoy a talk with Phelps perhaps there is something wrong with your taste. But these are not all. If you have the Yale course you may converse with Beecher, John Hall, Taylor, Bishop Simpson, Crosby and several other eminent and enthusiastic preachers. Spurgeon has several fine works on preaching. Now if you

are not satisfied with such Homiletic society as Shedd, Dabney, Hoppin, Phelps, Hall, Taylor, Simpson, Crosby and Spurgeon, we cannot say anything more. Perhaps some brother says he is a philosopher and finds the work of these men too shallow for his mighty intellect. Brother, there is no help for you.

You want some literary society, brother, do you? Well, take down Macaulay and some standard writers and converse with them. There are some very eminent literary men in Toronto, especially editors, but there are not many whose literary productions surpass those of Macaulay. Do become intimate with Macaulay.

You like to listen to good speeches, brother, and you think if you were in Toronto you might hear some fine orating occasionally at the Bar, or in the Local Parliament. No doubt the eloquence in these places is wonderful; but if you cannot enjoy it take down your old volume of "British Eloquence," and read Chatham, Mansfield, Burke, Grattan, Fox, Pitt, Erskine, Curran, Brougham and, if you are proof against the sarcastic spirit, Junius. You won't be likely to hear any better men than these in Canada. Reading the speeches of such men gives a preacher good mental exercise, and if they are read rapidly and kept well in hand the discipline is the very best for one who aims at a free extemporaneous delivery.

You would like to—well—yes—ah—I understand you like the drama. Of course you wouldn't go to the theatre, brother, if you lived in a large city. That is to say, you might drop in occasionally to see a play of Shakespeare as students of Divinity in Edinburgh are said to do, but you would not go regularly. Of course not. You would simply go once in a great while to study the elocution of a star actor just as good people go to a combination circus to see the animals. It might not be any harm if you did. But seeing you have no opportunities in that way, read Shakespeare. Study Shakespeare. Regular, persistent reading of the dialogues in Shakespeare is the best discipline on this earth to break up a monotonous delivery. Hear the conclusion of the whole matter: a minister that has a good library and good literary taste need never lack good society; and though his library consists of the Bible and Shakespeare he may have the best possible companions.

SOME QUESTIONS ON THE MAIN POINT.

"Ours is the leading congregation of the place." Very good. How many sinners did it lead to Christ last year? How many persons did it lead from lives of self-indulgence and selfishness to lives of usefulness and self-sacrifice? How many did it lead from the ranks of the camp-followers to the ranks of the workers for Christ? When you say: "Ours is the leading congregation," always stop and ask: What does it lead men from, and where does it lead them to?