

hits the nail on the head when he says : " Divine truths are like chain-shot ; they go together, and we must not perplex ourselves which should enter first. If any one enter, it will draw the rest after it." Puritan Manton, warning his flock how sins which now rest lightly on the conscience will hurt in the Day of Judgment, adds : " Things written with the juice of a lemon when they are brought to the fire are plain and legible ; so, when wicked men draw near to the fires of hell their secret sins stand out before them, and they cry out on their beds." Rabbi Lasker, preaching to a Hebrew congregation on the Day of Atonement, warns them that their sin is a fact, whether or not it is felt, and that " the difference between sin in the conduct and sin on the conscience is the difference between a pebble on the shoulder and a pebble in the shoe." Dr. Guthrie says : " A selfish man, whose heart is no bigger than his coffin—just room enough for himself." These, for the most part, are examples of pungent and compact illustration. They give the whole point insisted on in a single sentence. And this is important. Moments are precious with the preacher ; he must redeem the time and make it tell for his theme. A *gleam* of metaphor is enough if skilfully employed. Happy is the man who with a wink's worth of light can irradiate a whole field of thought.

Hearing the famous orator, Wendell Phillips, very frequently, we used to search for the secret of his power. He was singularly cool, deliberate, and unimpassioned in his manner of address, and yet would stir an audience to the very depths. Indeed, we never witnessed quite the impression on a public assembly which often followed his speeches. The power of his oratory was largely in its condensation. He would pack a metaphor into a few words, and it would scorch and blister like sunlight focussed by a burning glass. Meantime, he was himself as cool and unaffected as that same burning glass. Condensation which does not obscure is, we are persuaded, a great art in oratory ; in illustration it is invulnerable. To epitomize a whole discussion, or, as is possible, an entire sermon in a single clear and pungent illustration which every hearer will remember and carry away, what a triumph of the preacher's skill there is in this ! A matter-of-fact hearer, after listening to a long and diffuse sermon, exclaimed : " The sincere milk of the word by all means, but in these busy days we must have condensed milk." A snug and small-sized illustration is the best can for putting up this article and rendering it both marketable and palatable.

3. It need hardly be said that illustrations should be suited to the easy comprehension of the hearers.

Preachers are far too apt to presume on the intelligence of their auditors, not remembering that biblical, theological, and literary terms which are as familiar to them as their alphabet may be utterly incomprehensible to the ordinary hearer. Not that such hearer may not be fairly intelligent, only that he moves in a different realm and employs a different vocabulary from the speaker. There are kinds of knowledge as well as degrees. The