

But to teach positively we must believe positively ; and to believe positively we must be more than the mere echo of tradition. We must be, and be known to be, fearless investigators who are confident of our ground.

The temptations to ignore this warning will be many and strong. Temporary popularity of a certain kind can be cheaply secured otherwise ; and many a young clergyman is not proof against the bewitching attractions of popular applause. When kindly parishioners chant his praises and swing their little censor-bottles of flattery before his face, he is apt to become intoxicated with vanity and to grow more anxious to please than to profit. Certain pulpit mountebanks pursue the glittering bubble of cheap popularity ; but on seizing it they find that it suddenly disappears and leaves nothing behind it but the clammy drop of disappointment. " Verily, they have their reward."

Let it be taken for granted that not one of you, my dear young brethren, will yield to these base temptations. Let it be yours on all occasions to come fresh from the presence of the Lord into the presence of your hearers, carrying the aroma of the divine presence with you ; then, your souls being charged with the Lord's message, your eloquence will be kindled with a fire not of this world, and, by God's blessing, it will touch the deepest emotions of the heart. Thus, with the Holy Spirit working in and through you, you will become truly " fishers of men."

" So, the All-Great were the All-Loving too—
So, through the thunder comes a human voice
Saying, " O heart I made, a heart beats here !
Face, my hands fashioned, see it in myself !
Thou hast no power nor mayest conceive of mine,
But love I gave thee, with myself to love,
And thou must love me who have died for thee ! "

BROWNING, *An Epistle*.