

to be unwavering in the one and at the same time true to the other is often a matter of great difficulty, and needs the most careful tact and judgment. It is as essential that a man be a Christian at the polls as in his home, yet to emphasize the requisites for Christians voting and not to imply that they are coincident with the preacher's own political preferences, is no easy matter. The result has been too often that preachers refused to take up in the pulpit the great questions of government, and there are multitudes to whom the ideas of Christianity and politics are as far removed as possible from each other. This extreme is just as wrong as the other. While it is none of the business of the pulpit to discuss party-politics, it is the bounden duty of the pulpit to present as fully and clearly as possible the principles that should control party politics.

The question of Civil Service Reform, however, is in no sense a party question. It is one that involves the comfort and the rights of every community. It embraces in its scope the principles that should underlie all government in its local relations, in that it emphasizes the "service" element, brings out most forcibly the truth that public office is a public trust, that the public official should be as impartial, as unbiassed in his public action, as the preacher himself in his church duties.

ACCORDING to the last register there were 142,000 persons employed in the Civil Service of our national Government, aside from the elective offices. Of these about 125,000 filled regularly established positions, the remainder being only temporarily employed. Add to these probably nearly as many more in the different States, and we have a total of over 200,000 persons engaged in duties that affect the comfort of the whole country. Every class of people call upon them and have a right

to expect not only prompt attention, entirely irrespective of any opinions or positions that they may hold, but the best service possible. An incompetent, disrespectful, partial man has no more business among them than he has in Congress, the Presidential chair, or the pulpit. These 200,000 people represent an annual expenditure for salaries of \$200,000,000. That is, the public have an average of \$1,000 a year interest in each member of the Civil Service, and a consequent right to demand the service that is due. In order to this they are vitally interested in the methods by which this public servant secures his place. To go into the details of the appointment system here is not necessary. It is sufficient to say that of the total number of national appointments the President alone is responsible for not less than 4,575, and the Postmaster-General for 54,874. The impossibility of personal examination and accurate knowledge in regard to all these is manifest. Yet such examination and knowledge on the part of some one are indispensable. How can they be secured? Judged by results, the best system is that of competitive examinations, thrown open to all who may choose to apply, reserving still for the immediate chief a certain amount of margin in his choice, in order that he may consult personal characteristics which can hardly be tested by examination. But this is not all that is needed. One essential element in the success of a man in any business is that his position shall be permanent, so long as he meets the requirements of the place. In other words removals shall only be made for cause, a cause, too, that can be tested. These are the two principles at the basis of Civil Service Reform, as it is called. They are principles that affect the very foundations of life, not only political, but business and social. Let them once