

promising. Sacramentalism is once more rearing its head where we should least expect to find it. The methods employed for reviving the Church's life are too often mechanical and their results transitory.

The preacher may shut his eyes to these tendencies and keep on his own way. But it is better for him to look through them and beyond them if he can. Surely in all these things there is a loud call for loyalty to truth on the part of him who hopes to lead men to God in Christ. Sometimes his difficulty will be to maintain that courageous faith in truth and righteousness which is so necessary for grappling successfully with his work.

He may be greatly helped by considering the adaptation of the gospel to the deepest needs of man, by remembering its past triumphs over the lore of the wise and the might of the strong, by grasping the confident predictions of the Holy Scriptures which outline a certain victory for the truth, but most of all by close communion with the Holy One. He who maintains an unbroken fellowship with the Eternal will find that before the light and majesty of that Benign Presence the mists of earth will clear away. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." He will catch something of the dignity, stability, and imperturbable calm of the Infinite One. Obtaining some glimpses of the future from the Divine point of view he will not allow himself to be consumed with impatience, nor petulant anxiety about

results. "He that believeth shall not make haste."

Not only will such a spirit be far from quailing before the impending conflict, but it will exult in the thought that the Unchangeable determined before all the ages that it should stand for the honour of his name in a post of special trial, and in an age surcharged with hostile influences.

III. The Christian Preacher for to-day needs to be a man of skill and power in using truth. He ought not to be what is called in Scotland "an o' God's gowks," an encyclopedia of knowledge, or a moving conscience, or both combined. He must be a man of action, a clear headed, quick witted whole souled Reformer! His mental endowments, and especially his wealth of heart and vigour of devotional life will indeed be useful in a high degree as he lives an earnest holy life among men, for in so doing he reproduces the life of the Great Exemplar, the Son of God. Character in the preacher is of vast importance.

But in addition to this he is the active champion of truth, an outside conscience to the sinner, the awakener of new and higher life throughout the whole community in which he dwells. He must not only be armed with the sword of truth, but he must know how to wield it in courageous and successful battle for the Lord. To obtain the love and respect of a Christian congregation and to minister to the needs of its members for a lifetime is no very difficult task with ordinary grace. But to conquer the Kingdom of evil, to