

vows? Am I slightly irritated because prayer-meeting evening sometimes interferes with a *possible* engagement to lecture?" What odd questions will creep into one's mind once in a while!

Now it is to be said that there are many attractions in the "lecture field." One does see more of "society" and the "world" and agreeable people when he secures a certain class of lecture engagements. It helps his fame somewhat—if one cares for such fame. And, really, one may reach with plain truth many people who would never go to church. They will go to a lecture. An earnest man with a bit of tact may discuss some of the most sacred and important subjects on the rostrum. There is a recreative value in an occasional trip. Every man must have an avocation as well as a vocation. There is money in it. One may thus increase his fund for benevolences. Ministers love to have that they may give. Needy churches may be helped by occasional or annual lecture courses. If one have reputation as a platform man, he can use his power in his own church in behalf of his young people—the Y. P. S. C. E., the Epworth League, the King's Daughters, the C. L. S. C., etc. All truth and all service truly rendered are divine. All gifts a man has are divine gifts. One man has five talents, another one. Let each use and not abuse what God bestows. There are some things to be said in favor of the lecture field for a minister.

There are great temptations here. The pulpit may be neglected; the pastoral work postponed; the current discussions of the day in Church and State passed by unless one does fragmentary reading for a special use in lecture or sermon. There is here also a temptation to rhetorical and elocutionary effects. An expenditure of nervous force, the drawing upon the future, the formation of restless and roving habits—these are a few of the perils to which the ministerial lecturer exposes himself.

Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. Let him, first of all, look after the sick of his flock and the sermons for the Sunday. Let us include also the midweek service. Let him lecture only occasionally, and on topics which will help society. Let him have a perfect understanding with his church before he makes any engagement to speak for pay beyond the parish. And with wisdom, prayer, dignity, and faithfulness he may continue to be a good pastor, an able preacher, and a useful "occasional lecturer."

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## II.—THE NEW "LIFE OF CHRIST" RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN EGYPT.

BY REV. CAMDEN M. COBERN, PH.D., ANN ARBOR, MICH.

OF the many treasures which Egypt has given to the world, few have excited more widespread interest than the "Gospel of Peter," which was published last year. A translation of the text, with valuable comments, was given in the April number of the *HOMILETIC REVIEW* by Professor