

who cannot speak their mother tongue correctly, who can excel you in all that—have you instruction, wisdom, enlightening on matters of the Faith, for people are fast wearying of wind and emptiness?"

Do you, my brethern of the clergy catechise the children committed to you? Do you leave them to the well-intentioned but poor make-shift of the Sunday school, and its voluntary and irresponsible instructions? Where are the children of your charge to be instructed? Do you know? Not in our schools, for the Supreme Courts are banishing even the two Testaments as unconstitutional. Not at home; for fireside instruction in the Catechism has ceased. Only you, pastor and sworn shepherd, remain. Are you turning this over to the charge of undisciplined boys and girls, who themselves ought to be under regular catechetical discipline by you who must answer for their souls?

Let me ask my brethren of the clergy if there is not too much preaching and too little teaching, too little pastoring, too little catechizing, too little house-to-house work.

And let me suggest that the community in which we live is not perishing for preaching. Almost anything that can talk "preaches." Almost anything gets itself preached. Religion is choked to death by preaching. It is all preach and no practice, all talk and no do.

So I am not concerned so much about your preaching, so-called. I am deeply concerned about your instructing and your teaching the first principles of the oracles of God, of which, I am very sure, you will find

even most intelligent congregations, as they imagine themselves, profoundly ignorant.

Let me suggest that you inquire how many average people imagine that the Spirit of God inspired, for instance, the Old and New Testaments in chapters and verses, and even in the English language! Suppose you ask, even your own best instructed communicants, by what authority the authorized English version stands, or how the version of the Psalms in the Prayer Book comes to differ from what in the Bible. How many could tell you?

The people are perishing for lack of knowledge. The profound ignorance of the Word of God and all that concerns it, owing to the incessant preaching of preachers, black and white, male and female, who preach themselves, is appalling. The religion of Christ is washed out of the lives of thousands by a wide, wishy-washy flood of preaching.

There is no book of which the average sectarian christian is more profoundly ignorant than of his English Bible. His ignorance leaves him a ready prey to any fanatical preacher or any infidel lecturer who undertakes to instruct him, either in the mistakes of Moses or in those of Almighty God!

The religion of the Church is a religion of culture, education, and training. It appeals to and engages reason and intelligence. It is strong upon its own lines and on its own ideas.

The clergyman who abandons those lines and ideas for ways foreign to the whole law, sentiment, and conviction of the body, under the hope of some temporary success, will