

like a discoverer when he sees an unknown continent heave in sight,—

Then feels he like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken.

Having chosen a suitable text, and having mastered its living subject, what then? Then comes the SERMON. But what is the sermon? It is the subject amplified, evolved, developed. The subject is the sermon in embryo. The spirit of life within bursts the bonds, and the subject grows into the sermon.

In order to this proper development it is important that the subject be properly conceived: not abstractly but concretely, not logically merely but rhetorically. It is in this partition and rhetorical development of the subject that the illogical mind makes fatal mistakes. What incoherence, what retrogressions, what cross-divisions many sermons are guilty of! Things in the heavens above, in the earth beneath, and in the waters under the earth are jumbled together in hopeless confusion. The preacher may think this gives variety, and may call it versatility; the more thoughtful among his hearers are offended and the rest befogged. The human mind seeks after unity; and if the sermon lacks unity the hearer carries away no definite idea, no distinct impression, and, operated upon by a dozen warring influences, speedily forgets what manner of man the preacher said he ought to be.

It is necessary, therefore, that there be unity, not only in the subject, but also in the discourse. The development of the subject, must be along one line, and in direction of the practical end in view. Three rules of the college professor, Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, to whom whatever is good in this paper is due, come to mind: (1) Reduce your subject to the form of a practical proposition. (2) Have a definite object in view, or a definite impression to be produced. (3) Have one principle on which analysis or division is made in explanation; and one principle on which arguments are invented or arranged in confirmation.

It is helpful to study the form the subject of our text assumes. Is it a duty to be explained and enforced? Is it a principle to be stated and illustrated? Is it a life and its lessons? Is it a doctrine to be expounded or proved? Is it a truth to be shown in its relations and bearings? Answer questions like these, and