

who are addressed. The following items may be mentioned as characteristic of the preaching required by the times, and perhaps I might add all times.

1. *A thorough knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible.* The necessity of this is so obvious that it is unnecessary to dwell upon it, further than to observe, that for a man to pretend to teach what he does not understand is a manifest absurdity.

2 *Simplicity and plainness of language.* This is a marked feature of effective preaching. When our Lord delivered his sermon on the Mount, instead of dealing in abstruse speculations, which would be understood by few of his hearers, he illustrated his subject by referring to things common and familiarly known,—to the lilies of the field, and the fowls of the air,—illustrations which would be understood by the most unlearned of his hearers. When Paul preached on Mar's hill, although he was a learned man, and in all probability was preaching unto the most learned audience in the world, yet he used plain, simple language. During the first ages of the Christian Church, the preaching was marked by an artless simplicity, yet it was powerful in effecting the conversion of sinners. Whitefield is generally admitted to have been the most powerful and successful preacher since the apostolic age, yet he used plainness of speech. In the vicinity of a certain college in the United States there was a place where the divinity students used to preach. One of their hearers was a pious, but ignorant old negro, who generally came home from meeting about as wise as he went, for, as he said, he was an ignorant old man and could not understand these learned men. One day however, he came home in a joyful mood, and informed his friends that an ignorant old man had preached that day. Indeed, he was so unlearned he agency is concerned. It ought to be borne in mind, however, that the preaching of the gospel in all its essential points must ever remain the same. When the Great Head of the Church, in giving his last charge unto his disciples previous to his ascension, commanded them to "preach the gospel to every creature," and added the encouraging promise, "Lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world," he doubtless meant to convey the idea, that the doctrines which they were then commanded to preach were destined to meet the wants of man's spiritual nature through all succeeding ages until the end of time. The only variation which is allowable is, to dwell more particularly on those subjects which may be suited to the wants and circumstances of those