

---

 Weekly Lectures.
 

---

VII. *March 1st, 3 p. m.*—Rev. Dr. John Hall, of New York, addressed the students on the subject, "Elements of power in pastoral work," and the first of these, he said, is the power of the Holy Ghost. Mere carnal strength is only weakness. The second element of power is the message which we bring; the message is the Gospel. It is adapted to the needs of all men. Men are powerful and successful only when they set forth the truth of God to the people. While *Æsthetics* are good, God has given no promise in his word to bless them to the conversion of souls. The secondary elements of power are, first, the moral character of the preacher, and there is a moral power in character; second, we should have, if possible, the faculty for organizing, and if we have not this faculty, we should try and cultivate it. It is the vice of the people and their weakness that they expect all the work of organization to be done by the minister. The minister's duty is to counteract this impression. To be successful in the work of organization the minister must have some knowledge of human nature, and also he must have sympathy for men. Having the foregoing, he will know what each individual can do best, and therefore will give to each the work that is most congenial to him; and thereby the greatest good will be promoted. And if anything should happen to the minister, should he be removed by death or to some other charge, the people will be left in good working order. The tendency of the present day is to a mere personal ministry. Should Dr. Brown or Dr. Black die there is complete disintegration. Why? Because they have been depending on the minister to do all the work. He has been removed, and now they are in such a condition that they are unable to do anything for themselves. We must remember that a congregation is not a crowd. A congregation is an organized body, a living power. And, should the minister be removed, it ought still to exist as an organization and a living power.

Another thing very necessary is transparent honesty. Some think a spiritual man a fool in worldly things. We are to avoid tact and cunning; you must be transparently honest. When you say a thing, mean it; never give men the opportunity of doubting your word. Again, you must have sympathy with your fellowmen. Ordination is a real thing. You have a distinct place as clergymen. Some in New England are

striving to be as much like the people as possible. But let us not be mere clergymen, let our people know that we have sympathy for them. Another great element of our power is in our right dealing with the young. We can hardly fix a time to begin with the children, but we should begin as soon as possible. Young children are known to run and hide when the minister comes to the house. Why is this? It is because the minister has allowed a great chasm to come between him and them; taking notice of them at every possible opportunity this great chasm would not have come between them. Going along Fifth Avenue one day, I met a nurse and a little girl. The little one recognized me, and when I asked her who I was she said that she didn't know what my name was, but I was the gentleman who preached in Dr. Hall's Church. You see the child knew my personality. Know every one of the children if you can, and then they will know that you have a sympathy for them, and you will best be able to lead them aright. One very important thing is to know every child in the Sabbath School. Ministers, as a rule, take very little interest in the public schools. This is wrong. Ministers should visit the schools, and personally examine the classes, and show the children that they have an interest in them. Give a friendly visit frequently, and you will be their best guide and controller.

Another great element of success is the proper conducting and managing of occasional services, such as baptisms, dispensing of the Lord's supper, marriages and funerals. At any of the foregoing services be perfectly prepared; for instance, at a marriage it is very desirable to be felicitous in expressions, to say the right thing, &c. Never trust to the inspiration of the moment. Prepare well, asking God to give His Spirit to help you.

I remember hearing an anecdote concerning a young clergyman of the Church of England, whose duty it was one Sabbath to baptize a child. He read the service up to the point where the minister took the baby in his arms, but he could not hold the baby and the book too; so he put the baby on the table, and of course every woman in the congregation was in terror lest the baby should roll off the table. We see from this that it is very desirable that a man should think beforehand, both what he is going to do and what he is going to say. If this young clergyman had not been compelled to read his book he would not have been placed in such an awkward position. Aids may be very good, but they will not