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Courses of Sermons.

A clergyman was telling us the other day that on the Sunday evenings during the present holiday season he had been trying the experiment of a course of sermons on subjects which seem to be of popular interest at the moment. The result was that his congregation had nearly doubled itself. Doubtless this was largely due to the ability of the preacher, but he himself very much attributed it to the fact of his sermons being in the nature of a course, a more or less continuous and connected treatment of certain matters familiar and interesting to ordinary persons. It is probable there is much truth in this view. We are sometimes told that the time for sermons is a good deal past, and that, now that people can and do read so much for themselves, the attraction of the pulpit is on the wane. We do not in the least believe this; we believe, on the contrary, that it might with much greater reasonableness be urged that the spread of education has increased men's interest in sermons, even if it makes them somewhat more exacting and critical; and a course of sermons stimulates and retains this interest, and meets the demand of this growing power of appreciation. Unquestionably it puts a severe tax on the preacher, and there are many excellent clergymen not by nature fitted to attempt such a method of preaching. On the other hand, where a man is fitted there is a great opening for increased usefulness, if only he will take the necessary pains, and be on his guard to avoid the perhaps inevitable temptation to become merely smart and showy.—Church Bells.

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"In 1891 Dr. R. P. Huger, Episcopalian, and Dr. E. C. Anderson, Disciple, both of Anniston, Ala., had some friendly conversations as to the Scriptural form of baptism, and the former submitted to the latter the following proposition: "I hereby offer one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the conclusive evidence that immersion is taught as Christian baptism—that is, as the only form of Christian baptism taught by the Bible. The judges shall be composed of five clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, to be chosen by me, and five men to be chosen by Dr. E. C. Anderson. R. P. HUGER." Before this proposition was submitted in writing, Dr. Huger suggested that six men (three on each side) constitute the judges, and Dr. Anderson proposed that the six select a seventh man. This reasonable proposition Dr. Huger positively declined. Whereupon Dr. Anderson suggested that the number be increased to ten (five on each side), thinking that possibly among five Episcopal clergymen, one such man as Dean Stanley, Dean Goulburn, Bishop Lightfoot, or Bishop Colenso might be found. Dr. Huger selected T. F. Gallor, W. P. Dabbe, E. W. Spaulding, T. L. Tucker, and W. D. Martin; Dr. Anderson selected J. W. McGarvey, B. W. Johnson, W. J. Loo, H. McDiarmid and B. B. Tyler. After these ten men had been selected, Dr. Anderson proposed that the number be increased to fifteen by the addition of five lawyers or five learned Jews. This proposition was rejected. After Dr. Tucker sent in his review of "The Form of Baptism," Dr. Anderson proposed that the whole matter, including the "review" and Bro. Briney's rejoinder, be referred to three or five lawyers. This proposition was also promptly rejected. Thus all reasonable prospect of anything more than an evenly divided verdict was persistently shut out from the start, and the expected evenly divided verdict has been rendered. "The Form of Baptism" includes 13 chapters and covers 162 pages of the work. The headings of the various chapters are: I. Laws of Language and Rules of Interpretation. II. Baptizo in Greek Literature. III. Baptizo as Understood by Lexicographers. IV. The Voice of Scholars as to the Meaning of Baptizo. V. The Meaning of Baptizo as shown by the Hebrew word Tchal. VI. Baptizo in the New Testament—Its Literal Use. VII. Baptizo in the New Testament—Its Metaphorical Use. VIII. Allusions to Baptism in the New Testament. IX. The Voice of History. X. The History of Affusion. XI. Ancient Translations. XII. Objections Considered. XIII. Recapitulation, etc. The above thirteen chapters constitute the best compend on the subject of Baptism ever published. It leaves absolutely nothing to be said, and the "review," occupying about fifty pages of the book, by Dr. Tucker, shows how utterly una-sailable are its positions, and unanswerable are its arguments. No wonder his brethren were afraid to have one purely disinterested man on the jury. Bro. Briney's "reply" to this "review" is overwhelming. Though courteous (a hard thing to be under the circumstances), he is unsparing in his exposure of Dr. Tucker's fallacies. Bro. Briney in his reply is seen at his best. At a fine piece of controversial writing it has never been excelled. The volume is supplied with an excellent index, and has an Introduction written by Bro. J. H. Garrison.

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