

Wide-Awake Preaching.

A good deal is being said now-a-days as to the most efficient method of preaching needed in the pulpit. Some favor expository preaching, some the didactic, some the homiletic, some even the metaphysical. We suppose what is most efficient depends upon the constitution of the preacher himself.

So, too, the elements of simplicity is a most necessary one. We once heard a minister—and he was of that abused class, the army chaplains—speak of "landing a finny inhabitant of the briny deep upon the dry and parched earth."

Pungency is another essential element. As we had occasion recently to say, we want more clear, ringing Anglo-Saxon in the pulpit, and less artificiality of language and voice, which makes the preacher seem to be either an improved automaton, or a vox humana stop taken out of the organ and set up in the pulpit.

There is still another point: we need more attention to a free, spontaneous oratory. The gesture may be awakened; but let the words burn, let the manner be earnest, and the hearers will not be apt to go to sleep. The importance to a preacher of being wide awake in the delivery of a sermon even if he be liable to the charge of that great bigness of modern Chadsbands, "sensationalism," is well illustrated by an anecdote which Professor Lawson, a theological teacher in England, used to tell of one of his pupils, Andrew Fletcher, who, after completing his theological studies, passed the first two years of his ministry in a college of leagship with his father, a clergyman at Perthshire, Scotland.

So, too, when a friend of Mirabeau complained that the Assembly would not listen to him, that fiery leader asked for his speech, and the next day electrified the Assembly by uttering as his own the words they had refused to hear from another. In either case it was the manner that made all the difference. This age is a waking age, a nervous age, a quick age. Men have much to learn and they hear much.

The English Census

The number of British subjects in all parts of the world is, according to the last official census, 234,762,593. This vast number embraces all varieties of the human family from the Anglo-Saxon to the Esquimaux. The British empire covers an aggregate area of 7,769,449 square miles or enough to make forty states of the size of France.

It appears from the returns of the census that the population of the United Kingdom has doubled in seventy years. The increase has not been the same in all parts. It has everywhere kept pace with the increase of the supply of labor. In England, where the demand for labor has been greatest, the population has almost trebled. In Scotland it has doubled. In Ireland it is stationary. In 1801 the population of Ireland was 5,216,831. According to the last census it is 5,412,977.

No man has a right to do what he pleases except when he pleases to do right.

Salary of Ministers.

It may be safely said that no profession or even occupation in this country requiring a like amount of intelligence and acquired knowledge, or exacting an equal expenditure of time and effort, is so ill paid as that of the minister of the gospel. While he is debarred by duty, by public opinion and his own conscience, from every gainful pursuit outside his profession, and is absolutely prevented in engaging in efforts for the increase of his income as if a statute made it a criminal offense, he is restricted, in the great majority of instances, to a salary which would be scornfully rejected by men of like abilities in almost any ordinary business calling.

If men were magnanimous this could not be so. If they were merely generous, it would be deficient. If true magnanimity or generous feeling prevailed, men would be everywhere prompt to see not only what is due to the dignity of the ministerial calling and the eminent intellectual and moral force which it requires for its prosecution, but they would recognize its claims upon them by reasons of the peculiar self-abnegation which it demands, and the isolation from all other pursuits which it absolutely necessitates.

There is another consideration. People wrong themselves when they stint the salary of their minister to a scant pittance scarcely sufficient for his mere subsistence. Of all professions in the world, that of the minister of the gospel most requires frequent and prolonged intervals of calm withdrawal for contemplation, reflection, and study of the hearts and tempers of himself and others. If he is insufficiently paid, this is impossible, and his people are the real losers. By just so much as their minister is absorbed in the consideration of the gnawings of his necessities, they are excluded from the benefits of his searchings into the deep things of God and his investigations of the nature and wants of man.

Lord Dalhousie's Will.

The Dundee Advertiser publishes an abstract of the will of the late Lord Dalhousie. The whole residue of his estate falls to his sister, Lady Christina Maule, during her life, and after her death £6,000 each is to be paid to his nine nephews, and £4,000 each to his seven nieces or their children. His property in France is left to his oldest nephew, Major Thomas Young, along with such a sum as will make up £20,000. He also leaves £20,000 to the Free Church for the payment of stipends of £200 a year each to the ministers of the four Free Churches on his estate. The bust of Lord Byron goes to Mr. John Clark Brodie; his bust of Fox to Mr. A. Rutherford Clark; and his picture of Dr. Guthrie preaching in Glenesk to the Free Church College, Edinburgh. Legacies varying from £50 to £500 and a year's wages to each of his servants, gardeners, gamekeepers, and foresters. The chief factor, Mr. Guthrie is remembered with £1,000, and a valuable picture by one of the old masters is left to his local solicitor, Mr. Shields.

Tract Distributing.

A testimony to the influence of tract distribution comes from an unexpected source. A Swedish gentleman, a firm believer in the doctrines of Swedenborg, has for years been sending copies of large and expensive books in advocacy of Swedenborgianism to clergymen who would send money to pay postage on them. Four thousand copies of a large octavo have been thus distributed. This testimony in favor of the usefulness of the tract work is valuable. Why should not the Calvinists gain wisdom from this Swedenborgianism, of which there are many, to any minister who will send his address and money to pay the postage. In these days of vague and loose doctrinal thought, there is a great room for some man of wealth to do a great work in this direction.

The famous Cheney case, in Chicago, seems approaching a settlement. Closely following the death of Bishop Whitelaw comes the decision of the Chicago court, denying the application of the late Bishop for an injunction restraining Dr. Cheney and his congregation from further occupancy of Christ Church. Pending further proceedings, this places Christ Church in the hands of Bishop Cheney and his congregation of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

Color In Animals.

The variety of coloring in animal life is one of the marvels of nature, only now beginning to be studied scientifically. It is vain to say that an animal is beautiful, either in symmetry or diversity of color, in order to please the human eye. Fishes in the depths of the Indian seas, where no human eye can see them, possess the most gorgeous tints. One thing is remarkable: birds, fishes, and insects alone possess the metallic coloring, whilst plants and zoophytes are without reflecting shades. The mollusca take a middle path with their hue of mother-of-pearl. What is the reason of these arrangements in the animal kingdom? It is a question which cannot be satisfactorily answered; but some observations have been made which throw light on the subject. One is, that among animals, the part of the body turned towards the earth is always paler than that which is uppermost. The action of light is here apparent. Fishes which live on the side, as the sole of the turbot, have the left side, which answers to the back of a dark tint; whilst the other side is white. It may be noticed that birds which fly, as it were, bathed in light, do not offer the strong contrast of tone between the upper and lower side. Beetles, wasps, and flies have the metallic coloring of blue and green, possess rings equally dark all round the body; and the wings of many butterflies are as beautifully feathered below as above.

On the other hand, mollusca, which live in an almost closed shell, like the oyster, are nearly colorless; the larva of insects found in the ground or in wood have the same whiteness as well as all intestinal worms shut up in obscurity. Some insects whose life is spent in darkness keep this appearance all their lives; such as the curious little beetles inhabiting the inaccessible crevasses of snowy mountains in whose depths they are hidden. They seem to fly from light as from death, and are only found at certain seasons, when they crawl on the flooring of the caves like larvae, without eyes, which would be useless in the retreats where they usually dwell.—Chambers' Journal.

Tale-Bearing and Newspaper Reporting.

Tale-Bearing, a vice forbidden in Scripture, and too much of the present newspaper reporting in our ambitiously "enterprising" sheets seem to be identical. They have the same evil origin, and are productive of the same dire results. They originate in malice, cupidity, and prurience. They alike blast and burn everywhere.

A meaner occupation cannot easily be found. The whole business of reporting personal, family, or even neighborhood rumors is little less than unmitigated scurrility. It is of the sneak-thief order. The element of decency is lacking in it. At the same time, it is a crime too terrible in its consequences to be tolerated. House-breaking, robbery, and murder are no worse. It breaks up homes that would continue peaceful and happy but for its destructive hand. It robs the private citizen of what is dearer to him than all gold and lands. It batters and bruises and leaves half dead numberless innocent and helpless ones. It takes away the very life by the stiletto of tongue and pen. No wonder that the Law-giver of Israel would not tolerate tale-bearing.

That there should be found a class of men so lost to honor as to sell themselves for a few dollars a day to snook about into the private affairs of their fellow-beings, and then, reckless to truth and callous to mercy, to stab men and women to the heart by the weapon that cuts deeper than the sword, is a terrible revelation of the depths of depravity. Deeper guilt in this direction cannot well be reached, unless it be that of the conductor of a journal who, for the sake of selling a few more copies of his filthy sheet, will publish anything, even though it bring irreparable injury and lifelong anguish to many loving and pure hearts.

Such a man's occupation is just satanic; nothing less. If the reported statements are false, it is sheer diabolism to publish them; if doubtful, then the ordinary promptings of humanity should dictate suppression; and if true, then charity, that hides a multitude of sins, should shield the offender as far as consistent with public morality, and use loving ministrations and silence in such a way that the offender may, if possible, be restored.

Horuko is the name of the young Japanese Empress, and a very strong-minded and sensible woman she is. She has the hardihood to allow her eyebrows to grow to the natural length, and to permit her teeth to glisten with their own pearly whiteness, instead of being blacked as those of all other ladies of the better class are in Japan.

India has 11,000 primary schools, with about 250,000 boys in them. No system of public schools has yet been provided for girls and the need of them is attracting serious attention. As to the schools now existing, the great difficulty seems to be to supply a sufficient number of competent teachers, and for this purpose it is proposed to establish a considerable number of normal schools.

A new use has been discovered in Italy for old maids. On the Pope's eighty-third birthday a curious deputation waited on him to present their congratulations. It consisted of eighty-three maidens, young and old, arranged in the order of their ages, from one year to eighty-three years old. The Pope is reported to have been much delighted with the interview, but is not likely to marry.

There is living in England a clergyman named Turlov who has received two and a half million dollars from the taxes of the country for doing nothing. Forty years ago two sinecures which he held were abolished, and he was granted pensions in compensation to the extent of over £11,000 a year. He still lives at a park near Hortham and continues to draw more than the income of a lord chancellor, without ever having done a stroke of real honest work for it.

The Railway Engineer.

The first duty of the railroad surveyor is to trace, in a general way, the course of the projected railroad upon an ordinary map by means of a careful study of its mountain ranges and its water-courses. The more detailed and elaborate the map, more perfect can he make his preliminary and office survey. This being done, the real work of the survey begins. For this purpose the chief engineer makes a general reconnaissance of the whole ground, generally on horseback. He provides himself with the best map or maps he can obtain. He picks up as best he can more definite and precise local information. To succeed in his work he must have qualities which are rare, qualities which no mere school of engineering can impart. In his profession, as in every other, there is a certain something indefinable in native genius, something which may be developed and trained, but which no mere development and training can wholly supply.

The engineer must be a man of ready parts. He must have himself always well in hand. He must understand humane nature, and know how to deal with it. He must be equally at home in the log hut among the mountains and in the velvet-carpeted mahogany furnished office in the great city. He must be a man of quick eye and abundant resources, able to meet an exigency, or to vary in detail, and on the moment a carefully matured plan for the purpose of avoiding an unexpected obstacle, and reaching the general result with the least expenditure of time and money. The engineer has tunneled the Alps, and an expert assures us that with money enough it would be possible to construct a permanent floating bridge across the Atlantic. But there are a great many things which it does not pay to accomplish, and the successful engineer must be able to subordinate professional pride to practical results; to avoid obstacles that can be avoided, and to overcome those that he cannot escape; to make the fowest rock cuttings, tunnels, culverts, and bridges; and to be known and honored less for what he has done than for what he has avoided doing.—Harper's Magazine.

The Adulterations of Tea.

This subject, which all—whether chemists or not—are interested in, has been very exhaustively dealt with in a paper read before the Chemical Society of London, at a recent meeting, by Mr. J. Bell, of the Laboratory at Somerset House. He says that tea is adulterated to a very large extent, not only with leaves of various kinds, including exhausted tea-leaves, but also with inorganic substances, such as quartz, sand, and magnetic oxide of iron; these latter substances are rolled up inside the leaf, and one sample of green tea, examined was found 20 per cent of quartz, and 8.6 of the magnetic oxide. The latter may readily be separated by grinding up the tea, and removing the magnetic oxide with a magnet. The facing, employed for green tea usually consists of French chalk and Prussian blue. In the preparation of exhausted tea-leaves, they are rolled up with gum-water, and then dried, catechu being added in some cases to restore the astringency. The article known as the "maloo mixture" consists essentially of exhausted tea-leaves. In searching for the presence of other leaves than those of the tea-plant the best method is to heat a small quantity of the suspected tea with water until the leaves are sufficiently softened to admit of being unfolded. They should then be spread out on a piece of glass, and carefully examined as to the nature of the serratures and the character of the venation, also the form of the cells of the epidermis and the stomata, and the peculiarities of the hairs as shown by the microscope. The essential differences which the tea-leaf presents when compared with other leaves were minutely described. The chemical composition of tea was next discussed, the amount of lignin and of tannin being very important.—Popular Science Review.

The Castaway.

A pastor related in my hearing, how he once had under his care a church blessed with many excellent women. One of the best of these, who had overworked herself, suddenly became, as she supposed, "a cast away." She sent for her pastor, and confided to him her deplorable condition. She could not pray. To read the Bible was a hated task; she must be a castaway.

The pastor considered a while, then he said, "Have you confidence enough in me to do exactly what I tell you?"

"Certainly," she replied; she had all confidence in her pastor's judgment.

"Put your hand in mine," he said. She obeyed. "Now give me your solemn promise never to open a Bible, or attempt to pray, until I give you leave."

After a moment's hesitation, she made the required promise, and the minister took his leave.

I think it was that very day, perhaps the day after, that a messenger came in hot haste for the minister to hurry to the good sister's house. With a quiet smile the pastor turned to that errand.

As he showed his face at the door, the sister rushed to him crying, "Release me! release me quick, or I shall pray! I must pray, I will pray—you shall not hinder me!" "Do pray," said her pastor; and that was the last of her being "a castaway."—Augusta Moore.

Secret and family prayer should be daily. We daily have the same necessities, are exposed to the same dangers, tread on the borders of the same heaven or hell. How should the voice of praise and prayer go up as incense in the morning, and rise as a rich perfume in the shades of each evening! What more lovely object than the one in bloom of health and the dew of youth bending with reverence before the King of heaven, seeking forgiveness, peace, guidance, and life! And what a strange, misguided and pitiable object is a soul that never prays!—Albert Barnes.

Random Readings.

A word of kindness is a seed which, even when dropped by chance, springs up into a flower.—Sicourney.

It is doubtful if any man could by possibility do his noblest, or think his deepest, without a preparation of suffering.

Every human being is connected with God's world by a thousand ties, and cannot live a single day without doing good or evil.—Dr. E. Porter.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which has but saying in other words that he is wiser to-day than he was yesterday.—Pope.

A Scotch minister, when asked whether he was lying, answered, "Really, friend, I care not whether I am or not, for if I die, I shall be with God; and if I live, God will be with me."

Time is the only gift in which God has stinted us; for he never entrusts us with a second moment till He has taken away the first, and never leaves us certain of a third.

The Cross of Christ, on which he was extended, points in the length of it to heaven and earth, reconciling them together; and in the breadth of it to former and following ages, as being equally salvation to both.

It was a speech of a woman labouring under a horror of conscience, when several ministers and others came to comfort her—"Call back time again. If you can call back time again, then there may be hope for me; but time is gone."

I used to draw under my mother's superintendence, and to her I read aloud books of history and general literature. It is thus that she developed in me that love of reading and that curiosity for all things which were the springs of my life.—Cuvier.

He who can look up to his God with the most believing confidence is sure to look most gently on his fellow-men; while he who shudders to lift his eye to heaven often cast the haughtiest glances on the things of heaven.

Morality without religion is only a kind of dead reckoning—an endeavour to find our place on a cloudy sea by measuring the distance we have to run, but without any observation of the heavenly bodies.—Longfellow.

One cannot enough wonder or be thankful to Providence that, from time to time, he places in the spirit of a whole people, or of individuals, those truly Godlike thoughts on which our inner being reposes.—Humboldt.

No man is so happy as a real Christian; none so rational, so virtuous, so amiable. How little vanity does to feel, though he believes himself united to God! How far is he from abjectness when he ranks himself with the worms of the earth.—Pascal.

I ask you solemnly, in God's name, not to let the sun go down to-day till you have spoken to one man or woman alone about his or her soul. Will you not do that? Is it too little for you? Then I must be plain you, and say you are not worthy to do it.—Spurgeon.

The religion of Jesus Christ is altogether a practical thing. Just consider how we are taught any thing else that is practical. It is not by hearing or reading about making shoes, that a man becomes a shoemaker, but by trying to make them.—Augustus Hare.

The Calvinistic people of Scotland, Holland and New England have been more moral than the same classes among other nations. Those who have preached faith, in other words, a pure morality, have always produced more popular virtues than those who preached good works, or the mere regulation of outward acts.—Sir James Mackintosh.

A man may preach from false motives. A man may write books, and make fine speeches, and seem diligent in good works, and yet be a Judas Iscariot. But a man seldom goes into his closet, and pours out his soul before God in secret, unless he is in earnest. The Lord himself has set His stamp on prayer as the best proof of a true conversion. When he sent Ananias to Saul in Damascus, He gave him no other evidence of his change of heart than this:—"Behold, he prayeth."

The Epistle to the Romans was written to a Church who had believed, and who really knew the truth. Yet how the Apostle goes over the whole ground from the beginning, thus showing us that those who have believed must be continually occupied with all the truths of the Gospel—doctrinal, dispensational, and practical. We want no new doctrines, but we want a deeper insight into, and a richer experience of those things which are so clearly revealed.—Old Truths.

Pride in the church, manifested in building costly and gorgeous houses, not so much for worship as for ostentation and admiration, is the crying evil of our day. The consequence is, the poor do not have the Gospel preached to them. They can't afford to attend the rich churches, and the rich churches have expended so much money in their magnificent temples, they can't afford to send the Gospel to the poor. God save our Church from becoming an asylum for the merely proud and aristocratic classes!

The Bishop of Lincoln has made an earnest appeal to the Wesleyans in England to return to the Established Church. But the present state of things indicates that more Church of England people will go to the Wesleyans than Wesleyans will come to the Church.

Professor Porter, of the Presbyterian College of Belfast, lately missionary to the Jews at Damascus, has returned to England after a journey of four months in the land of Moab, east of the Jordan. He was successful in exploring a district hitherto untraced by an European foot.