

The impatience that breaks into erratic and multitudinous adventure, that is determined to "hire a hall" or follow the wake of the Salvation Army, that cannot rest except in restlessness and is certain that "whatever is, is" wrong, is often the awkward utterance of an ill-born and neglected or misdirected spiritual temper. Lands that devote themselves to getting children born and spend no strength on the further duties of fatherhood are apt to yield a race of restless vagrants. The same may well be true of churches. Men born in a whirlwind, and so, with a hereditary taste for whirlwinds, waiting always to be blown and never taught to walk, may more easily be forgiven for unsteadiness of gait than those to whose care they were committed. There cannot well be too much evangelism nor too wide in range or agency. It is not exclusively nor chiefly the pastor's work. "The brethren" from the beginning, unordained, "went everywhere preaching the Word." They ought to do so still. For this they are to be instructed and guided in it by the pastor. The preaching for our time ought therefore largely to emphasize the function of the church as a divinely prepared agency for the building of character and the mental equipment of its members each for the work of local evangelization.

There is need withal that the trivial and petulant temper of the time be met with earnest and thorough restatement of the fundamental doctrines of grace. Shallow plowing leaves old weeds to sprout. "Ethical" preaching will beget "apes of Epictetus" not "new creatures in Christ." The "river of God" is deep as well as broad. The true magnitude which the church mistakenly seeks is to be found in an enlarged experience rather than an enlarged membership.

II.—BOSWELL'S JOHNSON—HINTS FROM IT FOR THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER.*

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THE conversations of good men are a mine of useful as well as entertaining matter. Luther's Table-Talk is more important for the understanding of Luther than his Commentary on Galatians. The table-talk of the learned Selden was said by Coleridge to have "more weighty, bullion sense, than [he] ever found in the same number of pages of any uninspired writer." Every student of Coleridge knows the value of his own "table-talk." We could better part with his "Friend," much better with his Sermons, than with this record of his brilliant and powerful conversation. It must always be a matter of regret that so little of Lord Macaulay's amazing conversational gift has survived in his biography by Trevelyan. Boswell's Johnson, however, ranks them all, not only in the bulk of its records, but in the substantial value of its observations. There has been only one

* The references throughout this article are to Birkbeck Hill's Ed. of Boswell's "Life of Johnson."