

latter, however, generally means hard study. On Thursday I usually prepare my morning sermon, and Friday the evening sermon; that gives me longer for prayer on Saturday than other days—having prayed for the message, I can then pray over it, and thus obtain help from the Lord. Though I write a good deal, and have preached for twenty years, I have never read a sermon nor committed one *verbatim* to memory, and, thank God, find the preaching the most joyous part of my work. To encourage "P," I would say, prepare well,

pray much, do not be anxious, trust the Lord, the Spirit, and plan your work systematically, believing in quality rather than quantity.

One other thing has been a great help to me during the years of my ministry—viz., not to allow church troubles and members' inconsistencies to hinder me in study or from going straight ahead in aggressive work. Time and new blood do much to heal sores and cure crotchety members. X.

CANADA.

EDITORIAL SECTION.

LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

The Indian Problem.

What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.—Mic. vi. 8.

It will be remembered by our readers that in the closing number of our last volume we gave a discussion of this problem from an Indian's point of view. We have just received the Report of the Board of Indian Commissioners submitted by them to the Secretary of the Interior, in which we have a striking confirmation of the positions which were there taken. We give some of the statements of this Report as of peculiar interest to our readers, and helpful in enabling them to bring the subject before the larger public which they represent.

In the introduction of the Report we have the end kept in view by all who have to do with the solution of this problem for several years past—viz., the education, civilization, and complete absorption of all Indians into our national life as American citizens.

During the last year there has been a gain in the enrolment and attendance of pupils in the schools under the care of the Government by about 2000. This rate of progress, if sustained, will see the entire body of Indian children of

school age provided with the means of education in about five years.

Since the General Allotment Bill became a law (February 8th, 1887), allotments in severalty have been made to 15,482 Indians; of these, 9600 having been completed during the past year. The whole number who have now become citizens is more than 30,000. About 50,000 are now receiving, or will soon receive, allotments. A few years will, at this rate, see nearly all Indians become individual land owners and possessors of comfortable homes if they make proper use of their opportunities.

Fifteen years ago the first appropriation was made by the Government for this purpose, and amounted to \$20,000. The increase has been more than a hundredfold—the amount for the current fiscal year being \$2,312,385. This, however, was but a fraction of 1 per cent advance upon the grants for last year, and is not sufficient for the purpose.

Experience has taught the American people the need of popular education. The bestowal of the right of franchise upon the negroes before any adequate preparation had been made for the exercise of it in this direction was a huge mistake, and has been proved such by subsequent events. They were no more fitted for the gift than children of five