

there are four kinds of pride—pride of birth, pride of fortune, pride of beauty, and pride of intellect. I will speak to you of the first three ; as for the fourth, I shall say nothing of that, there being no one among you who can possibly be accused of this reprehensible fault.”

Dr. South, preaching before Charles II., and perceiving that several of the Court circle were about napping, stopped and called loudly to Lord Lauderdale by name : “ My lord ! my lord ! I am sorry to interrupt your repose, but I must beg of you not to snore quite so loud lest you awaken his Majesty.”

Sometimes they dealt recklessly with etymology in order to make a point, as when a Romish preacher, of whom Peignot speaks, when preaching against dancing, argued : “ A dance is a circular motion. The motion of the devil is circular ; therefore a dance is the motion of the devil. But how does it appear that the devil's motion is rotary ? Very plainly from the Scripture. He goes about (*circuit*) seeking whom he may devour.”

There have not been wanting preachers in more recent times who have sought the ear of the crowd by an eccentricity of wit and humor hardly inferior to these examples. Some of the backwoods circuit riders of the Methodist Church, such as Elder Cartwright, have been notable examples of a freedom from conventional proprieties of speech and a broad and pungent wit and humor that moved not only the rude pioneers who made up their audiences, but even impressed more critical hearers with admiration at their genius. It was this quality that gave Father Taylor, the sailor's apostle of Boston, in the last generation, such a marvellous hold for many years upon the rollicking toilers of the sea.

#### DISTINGUISHED PREACHERS.

Many of the most renowned and effective preachers in every generation have made use of wit and humor in the pulpit. Chrysostom, Latimer, South, Berridge, Sydney Smith, Rowland Hill, Beecher, Spurgeon, Talmage, Moody, and McNeil are but a few of the names that occur in illustration of this statement. Indeed, the greatest teachers and leaders of men never shunned to use the shafts of wit. Search history and witness. Cæsar, Diogenes, Cicero, Demosthenes, Æsop, Boileau, Lord Bacon, Dante, Descartes, Shakespeare, and Samuel Johnson were all men of wit, who knew how to use its resources in influencing their generation. It has illumined and vitalized poetry, the drama, art, and all literature ; and there is no reason why it should be outlawed in the realm of the pulpit. Great thinkers of the most diverse habits of thought have agreed in declaring its fitness in gaining a hearing for the truth and overturning error. The grave and weighty Dr. Barrows says, “ It procureth delight by gratifying curiosity with its rareness and seasoning matters otherwise distasteful or insipid with an unusual and thence grateful savor ;” and Henry Ward Beecher, speaking doubtless out of his experience as well as observation of audiences, says : “ What a blessed, reconciling, all-enlightening