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FRESHNESS IN THE PULPIT.

IT is no *concio ad clerum* I am attempting in this brief article on Freshness in the pulpit. I leave that to older and worthier hands. The subject is one of perennial interest, and if I can contribute a few thoughts upon it, they may not be out of place in the THEOLOGUE.

The pulpit knows but one book—the Bible. The preacher's commission restricts him to one great theme—the Gospel. The question is: "Can he keep within his appointed limits, and yet come before his people Sabbath after Sabbath with anything like fresh messages?" Of course the audiences that preachers address are very varied in their attainments and tastes, and sermons that are regarded as fresh by some, may not be so regarded by others. Yet, I apprehend the freshness of the pulpit, like the freshness of Nature, is acceptable to all. Fresh preachers will never want for hearers.

Yes, it has been done. Preachers, who have occupied the same pulpit for years, have been as fresh in their last as in their first sermon. That was notably true of the late Mr. Spurgeon. It is true of vast numbers of preachers to-day. Their people do not weary under them. "The old, old story," is ever fresh as it comes from their lips. It will be a good thing for congregations generally, and little short of a revival in some quarters, when this quality of freshness characterizes the rank and file of the Gospel ministry.