

wielded a broadsword that cleaved a helmet, but this other man's scimitar severed the silken scarf as zephyr-like it floated in the air. Such a man was Ralph Wardlaw. These men had many imitators, but the selection of the model was at times unfortunate. Consumptive lads, with feeble physical development, might be seen trying to imitate the massive rush and torrent, and magnificent strength and awkwardness of Chalmers, while great florid fellows, in whose nature, it was not to play the lamb, made ludicrous efforts to assume the patrician air and dignity of Wardlaw. If they had changed places the mischief would have been less, but mischief still. Many of the younger Baptist preachers in England give a distinct, but usually very distant imitation of Spurgeon. Every man has his own peculiarities, some of which are neither grotesque nor offensive, and in the practice of which he may be left undisturbed, but many peculiarities are opposed to every canon of good taste and the sooner the young preacher gets rid of them the better. The time has gone by when that part of Rhetoric, which had to do with pronunciation, voice and gesture was regarded as well enough in its way, but scarcely worth a place in the curriculum. It will take a congregation a year to find out whether a man is much of a theologian. It will take as long a time to find out his peculiarities of temperament and social adaptabilities, and almost as long to find out how much of a pastor he is, but on the first Sunday they can tell whether his voice is well modulated, the delivery of the sermon pleasing or otherwise, and the reading of the Word, a sermon in itself or a crude performance. There are no little things, no minor details in the preacher's office. Sacred Rhetoric, even in the little things, is not a mere human device, it is not a ministering to certain æsthetic developments; it is an adaptation of those laws of the beautiful and the true, which God has stamped on his works to that organization the "human heart divine,"—to that sweetest instrument, the human voice.

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