

generally the result of attendance on Roman schools or marriage with Romanists. They are, however, a serious warning to us. If we cease to be aggressive we cannot but become the objects of aggression. If the light which we possess do not flash out its beams into the surrounding gloom then the darkness will gather thicker and still thicker till the light itself be in danger of utter extinguishment. Enterprise, exertion, aggression, are essential to our very life. Cowards alone remain lazily inactive in presence of a dangerous foe; the dead alone are still!

READ!

There are other ways of proclaiming the Gospel than by word of mouth. Preaching is indeed an ordinance of God which can never be dispensed with in the Christian church. Hear the word as often as you can. Never neglect an opportunity of listening to God's ambassadors, and do what you can to make others hear. But reading—good reading, is also of vital importance. We should listen and meditate, and then read! The more we hear and the more we think, the more shall we profit by what we read. If we read much we shall be all the better qualified to hear intelligently.

There is little excuse now-a-days for those who do not read. Books are cheap. Good books are cheaper than bad ones. A volume of noble sermons can be secured for a dollar. Valuable theological treatises can be had for even less. Rev. John I. Baxter and his colporteurs can give you Biographies, Sermons, Narratives, Histories, books for the young and books for the aged, all at most reasonable prices, and all very good. You need not be afraid to hand them to your children or your friends; you need not be ashamed if a stranger finds them on your table and looks them through. By putting good evangelical works in circulation you are proclaiming the gospel!

In the winter especially people so disposed can spend many hours every week in reading. It is their duty to do so. We owe it to God, to ourselves, and to the community to improve our own minds, to

gather as much knowledge as possible.—But we must not stop with ourselves.—Wherever possible we must incite others to read. Some have time to read books and money to buy, but they have no taste for reading. If any of our neighbors cannot read or is without taste for reading, let us try to teach them, and to stir them up.—Schools are now free to all; and all who need instruction in reading should avail themselves of the facilities placed within their reach.

Every distributor of good books—of tracts—bibles—catechisms—is a fellow-worker with God, is building up the Church of Christ. If you do not feel disposed to turn tract distributor yourself, you can easily do at least a portion of the work by proxy: you can send your money to support Mr. Baxter's colporteurs or some others in whom you can repose full confidence. The admirable publications of the Presbyterian Board can with safety be recommended anywhere. Our own Colportage Scheme deserves support were it to do no more than to put these publications within reach of our people.

PARAGRAPHS FOR PREACHERS.

Be not too ready to take offence even when insult is heaped on insult and hurled on your innocent head. When Christ was reviled he reviled not again; when he suffered he threatened not. There are some people who seem on the watch for anything and everything at which they can take offence. Ministers should never be numbered with this class. Let them be patient, magnanimous, ever ready to be reconciled, to forgive and to ask forgiveness. We have known immense mischief arising from a bad temper on the part of a minister.

Never quarrel with a brother minister. If you have to do with an unreasonable man let him do all the quarreling. Nothing serves to bring contempt on the religion of Christ more than strife between brethren.

Do not make your sermons too long. Two ministers were going together to a preaching place in the country. As they rode along, A said to B, "I suppose you