

More Special Points in Homiletics.

manuscript; from notes, more or less extended; *memoriter*; or wholly *extemporary*. Imitate the Master who opened his mouth and spake unto the people. Though I believe it to be a mistake for any man to come under perpetual bondage to the pen, or be confined exclusively to one method of delivery. Use all methods occasionally, sometimes one is more suited than another, according to your *subject, aim, occasion* or *audience*. The grand essential is to be natural. Feel what you say, and say what you feel. Watch one child speaking to another in play; how earnest his manner! how admirably the tones of his voice are suited to its words! and how truly, the countenance, the eyes mirror the feelings. So if you are to be perfect in delivery you must become as a little child. No minister can afford to neglect any training, whether of manner, voice, posture or gesture which may make him more richly furnished unto all good works. And yet, provided you can slay the Philistines of sin, that is the main thing, though it be done with the jaw-bone of an ass. 1 Cor. ii. 4, 5.

38. *Cultivate free speech*, for you will frequently have opportunity to use it. Half the eloquence lies in the audience, and much of this is lost when instead of looking them full in the face you are gazing intently upon a manuscript. When you can watch the effect of your words, and pour out the fulness of your heart in free speech, what enthusiasm springs up between you,—a warm glow as in the sunshine of summer amid the fragrance of bud and blossom. And the best thoughts often come to a man when, standing on his feet in the presence of an audience, and feeling the magic power of their concentrated interest, he sees in their faces the evidences of an earnest desire to hear the word from him. When the preacher can cut himself loose from necessary dependence on paper and throw all artificial helps to the winds, and stand at the focal point where a thousand secret, silent influences pass, and with a message of truth in his heart, he will give it forth in free, natural utterance. Then he will be at his very best, and be able to speak boldly as he ought to speak. "They so spake that a great multitude believed."

39. Whether you read, or speak extemporary, seek precision and accuracy of language, and elegance of literary form. Be to your people a model of pure English. Let every word be freighted with meaning and each sentence compact, clear, and full of beauty and power. There is a dignity, a majesty and charm in noble, pure