who mixed up so much of the absurd in his vaticinations. Let
us, however, give him his meed of praise without grudging, for
he was one of the great and noble of our race, who have at-
tempted to lift humanity to a higher plane than where they
found it. And he succeeded in his effort.

<div align="right">ROBT. A. FALCONER.</div>

Edinburgh.

BE NATURAL IN THE PULPIT.

PROTESTANTS have ever been peculiar in exalting the ser-
mon. They recognize the pastor as above all else a herald,
proclaimer, speaker, whose specialty is vocal address. In strange
contrast with this belief is the fact that the one branch of train-
ing most generally slighted in preparation for the pulpit 's the
art of speaking. Teachers and pastors thus guilty, shield their
negligence under the specious plea that they need only be natu-
ral. This dictum is injurious because of its resemblance to truth,
whereby it deceives many, and hinders those whose judgments
would urge to better attainments. The sophistry lies coiled in
the definition of "natural."

Is there such a thing as a natural delivery ? We know that
some things are invariable when left to nature. Certain sub-
stances crystallize with perpetual uniformity of color, angle, and
density. Every plant, vine, and tree bears "seed after his kind."
Even the brutes show characteristic habits indicative of their
species. Is there in man's habits of speech a definite character
that can be invariably recognized as natural, so that any depart-
ure therefrom can be rightly stigmatised as unnatural and abnor-
mal ? Is it not true that habits of speech differ in endless vari-
ety ? What is natural in the Caucasian is not in the ..thiopian.
Between those of like race there exist as marked difference, due
to climate and other environments, so that the Scotchman and
the Spaniard are as unlike in speech—apart from mere language
—as they are unlike in looks and disposition.

Persons of the same circumstances, indeed of a single family,
differ widely in their methods of delivery. The gay-hearted
youth does not find it natural to speak with the same force,