

us now, and which will be remembered for ages to come, with inexpressible delight. In this way only, the spirit of it is caught, retained and exhibited. Some such readers seem to be enrapt or inspired with its contents. Every sentiment and feeling which it imparts seem to be the sentiments and feeling of their hearts; and the bible is to their religion what their spirit is to their body—the life and activity thereof. The bible to such a person is the medium of conversation with the Lord of Life. He speaks to Heaven in the language of Heaven, when he prays in the belief of its truth, and the Great God speaks to him in the same language; and thus the true and intelligent christian walks with God and converses with him every day. One hour of such company is more to be desired than a thousand years spent in intimate converse with the wisest philosophers and most august potentates that earth ever saw.

CHURCHES—PREACHERS—SMART MEN.

I hear much said in the churches about smart men—men of talents—great men—powerful preachers, &c., &c.; and this more particularly in reference to candidates for settlement. The questions asked by churches in want of pastors, are not, Is the candidate a good man?—sound in the faith?—eminently pious, devoted, and active? but, Is he a smart man?—a man of talents?—a popular preacher? This has become universal, from the aristocratic city congregation, down to the feeble society. Indeed, the feebler the church, the more unwillingness is often manifested to take up with a pious, sound, faithful minister, of ordinary talents. This feeling is doing immense mischief, both among the wealthy and feebler congregations, but more especially the latter. I have a few things to say to small churches and feeble congregations on this subject. I am not about to detract an iota from the smart men;—would to God all the Lord's prophets were ten times more gifted, provided they were a little more pious than smart. But then there are evils in having one of our present race of smart men, of which feeble churches little dream. Wealthy congregations can afford to bear these evils, perhaps, because they must have great men at all events; though some of them are dying under their popular preachers. But feebler churches should look well to this matter. For,

1. Many who pass for smart men are more showy than sound—more brilliant than deep. They can let off a few sermons and speeches wonderfully well, and their pond is out.