

The Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record.

MISTAKEFUL SUCCESS.—Richard Baxter, somewhere in his published works, has a remark to the effect, that he never knew any considerable success from the brightest and noblest talents, nor the most excellent kind of preaching, and that even where the preachers themselves have been truly religious, if they had not a solicitous concern for the success of their ministrations, uniform experience sustains the truth of this statement. It will not do for ministers to imitate the ostrich, which is said to lay her eggs in the sand, and then leave them regardless whether they come to life or not. It is not enough for a man to labor under a sense of duty, or of zeal for the honor of God, or even of love to the blessed Saviour; there must be also a yearning for the salvation of men, "a passion for souls," as it has been called, if success is to be expected. Certainly this intense longing for saving results has marked all who have been eminent in winning souls. To the Master his own disciples applied the words, "the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." Paul speaks often of his heart's desire, his conflict, his wrestlings in prayer; the Scottish Reformer's burst of anguish was, "Give me Scotland, or I die." And so in our own day. He whose great concern is to see men rescued from perdition, will preach with blood earnestness, will steep every sermon in prayer, will come before his people as one standing in full view of the judgement seat.—*Christ. Int.*

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