

are warm and tender, while their love for the Saviour is new, and the precious sense of the forgiveness of sin is fresh. It must be commenced before they begin to grow cold, and to form habits of indifference and neglect of duty. When they first give their hearts to Christ they are zealous and humble, they feel deeply their obligation to serve their Redeemer, and are ready to do anything that their pastors and instructors may show them to be duty. Experience shows that it is easy to take Christians at this stage of their spiritual life and train them for usefulness, while it is very hard, if not impossible, to make efficient church members of persons who have passed through this period without training. They become confirmed in inactivity, and in the opinion that there is little, if anything, that they can do.—*Religious Herald, Richmond, Va.*

EXPOSITORY PREACHING.

The advantages of this method of pulpit discourse are numerous. I name, first, the fact that *it brings both preachers and hearers into direct and immediate contact with the mind of the Spirit*. The great object of the minister ought to be to set before the people the mind of God. Now, in so far as he is successful *that* is what the expositor does. In the topical sermon there may be many matters of doubtful disputation, or of private interpretation; but when in the expository discourse he has succeeded in convincing his hearers that he has given the true meaning of the passage, he can say, "This is the mind of Christ," and the force of that, both on himself and them, is overwhelming. Indeed, only when he succeeds in producing that impression has he clothed himself with that peculiar might. Other men have genius, or information, or logic, or invective, and so long as the minister is wielding these alone he is as they are. That which gives him his distinctive might over men is that he has the Word of God behind him; and only when he has made his people to know and believe that does he rise above the level of the political orator and the literary lecturer. Hence, as the special and distinctive engine of the preacher's influence, I advocate the systematic exposition of the Sacred Scriptures.

A second advantage of this method is that *it secures variety in the ministrations of the preacher*. Every man has his idiosyncracies, and yielding to these, he will be in danger of confining himself to a few favourite themes, and ringing the changes on them until his hearers are tired both of him and them. But if he follow the course of some book, or trace out consecutively the chapters of some sacred biography, he will discover the same old truths, with ever-fresh surroundings, and secure that variety in unity which is the charm of God's Book of Revelation, as much as of his Book of Nature. There is an immense difference between the study of geology in the systematic treatise and on the actual survey of a country. Now that is just the difference between the teaching of systematic theology and biblical exposition. In the former you have everything arranged by the scale; in the latter you come upon truth *in situ*, and there is much of interest in the discovery, and of instruction in the surrounding. He who preaches merely upon subjects must treat them in a more or less stereotyped manner, and so will soon exhaust himself; but the expositor, while never far from the great central themes, comes upon them always from new angles, and so keeps his freshness and secures variety.

A third advantage of this method is that *the preacher in following it will be compelled to treat many subjects from which otherwise he might have shrunk, but which ought to be dealt with by him, if he would not "shun to declare all the counsel of God."* He can utter timely truths, without the imputation that he has gone out of his way to present them. He can reprove evil that may be the besetment of some one individual, without the charge that he has turned aside for the purpose of reaching him. Besides, he will be delivered from the danger of onesidedness in his presentation of the truth. He will not exalt God's love at the