

him for the service. Not without application, however. As he must apply himself to the written Word in order to ascertain the message he is to deliver, so he must apply himself to the Living Word in order to secure the unction whereby he may become an able minister of the grace of God. "Apart from Me," said Christ, "ye can do nothing." That ministry is bound to be a failure which relies upon mere human skill in the putting of truth, mere human eloquence. "The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" must be in the preacher who would have his preaching prove a savor of life unto life. The prayer of the sainted Henry should, therefore, become that of every minister of the Gospel, "Proportion supplies accordingly." The answer which He who gave to the Church the "gift" of the ministry makes to the question, which every one who realizes in any adequate way the measure of his obligation cannot fail to put, "Who is sufficient for these things?" is ever, "My grace is sufficient for thee." He giveth more grace, more and more grace, so perfecting His strength in the human weakness that the very feeblest can say truly with the apostle of old, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me," though "I can do nothing of myself."

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#### Closed for the Summer.

SUCH the announcement made concerning more than one of our city churches at this season of the year. We cannot but regard it as a matter greatly to be regretted that the doors of any of our church buildings should thus be shut for that part of the year when, to use the plain words of a layman who some time since spoke to us concerning the matter, "the devil is getting in his best—or worst—work." That our pastors should have a season of rest and recuperation we would be the last to deny, knowing, as we well do, that there is no class of men more truly overworked; but there is not a church in our cities the large majority

of whose members do not remain in their homes during the summer. The percentage of those who spend their time during the "heated term" out of town is comparatively small; and even if it were larger, there would still remain in the city enough people to fill every structure erected for the worship and service of God. There are many ministers, also, who, for a comparatively small remuneration, would be glad to have the opportunity of filling vacant pulpits during the whole or a part of the season, ministers of large ability and well calculated to do great good by their proclamation of the Gospel. We trust that the time may come when the reproach that now rests upon so many of our churches shall be taken away, and when they shall be found presenting the opportunity, the year round, to all who may desire it, of hearing the Gospel of grace, whose efficacy is not limited to any special seasons.

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#### Clipping the Consonants.

THAT the success of a preacher very largely depends upon the distinctness of his enunciation goes without saying. It does not take long for a congregation to weary of the sermon if it is delivered in such a way as to be only half distinguishable. With many ministers who make extraordinary efforts to speak distinctly, the trouble of indistinctness arises from an undue emphasizing of the vowels and an inadequate attention to the consonants. We not long since heard one of our well-known ministers in his own pulpit executing the English tongue in the most outrageous fashion. Almost every word was either decapitated or decaudated, if we may coin the expression. The vowels were sounded out roundly and well, but initial and final consonants were treated like criminal offenders and cut off without mercy.

Consonants are the links of sound. They give definiteness to it. They are the true expositors. To maltreat them is to leave one's thought unexpressed. A hint is sufficient in this matter. If the habit has been acquired to which we have referred, all that is needed for its correction is the cultivation of a little deliberateness in speaking, the lack of which is usually the secret of it.