

4. PREACHERS SHOULD NOT KEEP ALOOF FROM POLITICS WHEN ANY QUESTION AFFECTING THE FREE INSTITUTIONS OF THE LAND ARE BEING DISCUSSED, BECAUSE IT WAS THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL THAT MADE FREE INSTITUTIONS POSSIBLE, AND ONLY IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL CAN THEY BE MAINTAINED.

The influence of preaching in a nation's history is not easily traced. But the influence has been at the very heart of the history of all modern free nations. Kings and warriors, battles and political intrigues figure largely in the historic page. But the mighty influences moulding the national life cannot be chronicled as startling facts.

Yet there is enough on the surface to establish the proposition I have laid down.

Trace the origin and development of national liberty in Germany, and you find in its very life blood the preaching of Luther; in Switzerland that of Zwingli and Calvin; in England the preaching of Tyndall, of Cranmer, of Ridley and Latimer and the Puritans; in Scotland the preaching of John Knox and his associates and their thousands of successors; in the United States in their struggle for liberty, the preaching of Witherspoon, the Mathers, Davies, Stanhope, Smith, &c. So great was the influence that Horace Walpole, writing of the revolution said: "There is no good crying about the matter, Cousin America had run away with a Presbyterian parson and that was the end of it."

Let any one but thoughtfully trace the influence of the Protestant Gospel and Protestant preacher in obtaining and establishing the liberties of modern free nations, and the sneer against preachers meddling in politics will