

of appearing wiser than their neighbors ; in others, from an ambition to be wise above what is written, accompanied generally with a restless activity of mind, and vividness of imagination, while there has been very little cultivation of the judgment. The peculiarity in the actual mental condition of such persons is, that they look only to one view of a question. Having formed their opinions probably on slight and feeble grounds, their whole ingenuity is directed to finding arguments in support of them, instead of rigidly examining their truth ; and they do not allow themselves to consider fairly the objections or the views and principles which are opposed to their own. This habit of the mind is usually accompanied with a high confidence in its own powers, and a contempt for those who differ ; and the persons who are under its influence generally become, in a great measure, inaccessible to argument, and unsusceptible of the force of facts and considerations which are opposed to their favorite views. This arises from the habit of directing their attention entirely to one view of a subject, or to one side of a question, while they put away from them all that is opposed to it. For, when false opinions have once been allowed to fasten on the mind, the evil is not confined to the particular dogma which is embraced, but an injury has been done to the mental economy, which is apt to continue, or even increase, and to carry the individual more and more deeply into error and delusion.—*Abercrombie*

A GOOD SERMON.

We have heard a story of the elder Dr. Beecher, now of Cincinnati, that is said to be true, and is worth putting in print, as illustrating the truth that we never can tell what may result from an apparently very insignificant action. The doctor once engaged to preach for a country minister, on exchange, and the Sabbath proved to be one excessively stormy, cold and uncomfortable. It was in mid-winter, and the snow was piled in heaps all along the roads, so as to make the passage very difficult. Still the minister urged his horse through the drifts, till he reached the church, put the animal into a shed, and went in. As yet there was no person in the house, and after looking about, the old gentleman—then young—took his seat in the pulpit. Soon the door opened, and a single individual walked up the aisle, looked about and took a seat. The hour came for commencing service, but no more hearers.

Whether to preach to such an audience or not was now the question,