

aspects of life are, however, becoming increasingly important for public men, and few of us can afford to be in entire ignorance with regard to these great problems. The teachings of the Gospel that shew the duty of man to his fellowmen are now being very vigorously pressed, and in this matter as in all others, that man is safest who understands something about the scientific principles that underlie the subject.

We said in the earlier part of this discussion that one of the purposes of reading is to secure the co-ordination of ideas. This is probably best done by works on philosophy. I understand that something of the same end is secured by the higher mathematics, but about that I am not able to speak. It seems certain, however, that a pastor should frequently read some book by a first-rate philosopher. Those who labour in this sphere are able to command such clearness of thought, and are able to survey such a wide area of fact and of experience that what they write is always helpful to the careful reader. Reading of this sort is both exhilarating and corrective and clarifying, and the philosopher has an important contribution to make to the pastor in helping him to avoid the entanglements of confusion.

In the reading of a pastor, I would give a recognized place to poetry and to works of fiction. Poets are heirs to an unusual strength of imagination, and are masters of happy phrases. If they did not have these characteristics, they would not be poets. In both these spheres they have much to teach us, and the preacher will often find a new power come to him as he wanders over the fields of poetry. None of the great poets should be neglected, but perhaps each one ought to have a special favourite, who will be to him a refuge in time of storm or a house of preparation for the day of battle. Some find most of what they need in Browning, and some in Tennyson, and some in Wordsworth, and some in Spenser. For my own part I gain the greatest help from Shakespeare, and I always esteem myself happy when on Saturday evening it is possible to read one of his plays. As for works of fiction, there is a variety of practice and a difference of opinion, but there are some classes of minds that cannot do their best work unless they read a fair