

THE PASTOR IN THE PULPIT.

REV. P. H. HUTCHINSON, M.A.

The pulpit is the pastor's throne. It is there he wields the sceptre of his power, if he possess any. The aim of all his other work should be to render him effective when, on the Lord's Day, he steps into the pulpit. His mission is to preach, and all other work should be secondary and subservient to this. His commission is—"Go ye, and preach the Gospel," and the men who, in every age of the Church's history, have been most successful as pastors, are the men who have been most faithful in the endeavour to fulfil this commission of the Master. There are indeed many ways of preaching; a man can preach with his life as well as with his lips, often better with his life than his lips, but at the same time it is undoubted that the parting words of the Lord to His disciples refer to the oral proclamation of the Gospel. The noblest vocation in life is the preaching of the Word, and just because it is the noblest it is the one in which there are the most conspicuous failures. The question, therefore, that every young man with the ministry in view must ask himself, if he have any object higher than the making of a livelihood, is, what are the sources of pulpit power? The aim of this paper is to help a little towards the answering of this question.

The first and by far the most important source of power is the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit no other power is of very much account. Without the Spirit a man may produce a fine literary product in the form of a sermon, he may gain a passing reputation for ability and eloquence, but he will never do much in the way of saving souls; in other words, he will entirely miss the one purpose for which he is supposed to preach. The Holy Spirit is the motive power; everything else is machinery. It has been generally recognized of late years that the church is not exactly the force in the world that she ought to be, and that her Lord intended her to be; the spiritual