

members each. Now let us see yours in the "Minutes." No, we shall not be personal; but with a membership of 80, or 65, or 45, or 30 it would surely be possible to strike out to villages, school-houses, or cross-roads, and combine the work of the missionary with that of a pastor. With the "Minutes" in his hand a friend of mine named a minister known to us both, and read out—"members 39, S. S. scholars 54," and then said, "What in the world does my old class-mate do with himself through the week?" I could not answer, but suggested apologetically that his income perhaps needed to be eked out a little. Many dear brethren are, thanks be to God, thus combining in one the pastor and the missionary. We bid them God speed, and commend their example to their brethren. "But does our population need missionary work?" Well, here are facts for which the American Bible Society is responsible. Eight hundred and nineteen families were visited, and two hundred and ten of them were "of no denomination." In another district four hundred and forty-one families were found without a Bible or a Testament, and these were not Germans, Italians or Irish, but Americans. And this was not in Montana or Nebraska, but in New York City. Yes, brethren, there is need for pastors to be missionaries, and holy ingenuity can easily shape the methods.

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## II.—PREACHING.

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A SERMON IS, or ought to be, an official document, prepared expressly in the discharge of official duty, and therefore as definite in its purpose as the charge of a judge to a grand jury. There are many ways in which a judge, from his large and broad culture, might give very valuable instruction to a grand jury; but if he understands the fitnesses of his own position, he will instruct them only as to the range and the legal aspects of matters within the proper scope of their inquest. The minister may have on many interesting subjects intelligence and learning beyond what is possessed by any members of his flock, and there is nothing that he knows or thinks for which he may not find need or use in his sermons; while, if he can institute week-day courses of instruction in literature and science, he at once makes valuable contributions to the cause of education, and secures a more respectful and heedful listening to his sermons. But neither science, history nor geography, not even the geography of Palestine, has of its own right a place in the pulpit. Still less does such a place belong to the transient concerns of social, political or public life, however intensely momentous, except they be viewed solely in their religious bearings. A minister is chosen as the religious instructor and guide of his flock; the sermon is the principal form in which he can exercise