

and confirm a point which the Preacher wishes to explain or inforce; but all appearance of ostentation should be avoided. Divisions are not always necessary; yet some subjects cannot be handled with perspicuity and advantage, without them; but if they are too much multiplied, they will weaken the force of a discourse, and perplex the hearers.

SERMONS written in the earlier period of life, are generally florid, and imagination predominates, rather than judgment. If a Clergyman, when advanced in years, would transcribe some of his early compositions; retrenching what is superfluous, altering the arrangement and texture where necessary, and throwing in what his maturer judgment, his enlarged ideas, and exacter knowledge of human nature, can now supply, he would probably find benefit from it. The fallies of youth would be corrected; and enough of its fire retained, to enliven and warm what might otherwise partake of the coldness of age. I have known this method practised with equal advantage to the Preacher, and to his congregation.

In general, those Sermons may be deemed the best, which speak earnestly and affectionately to the heart, as well as to the understanding—which bring home religion, the truths of the Gospel, to the conscience—and which, through the understanding and judgment, seize the heart, and turn it, with its affections, on the side of duty and religion.