

science? We hear so much in these days about the infidel tendencies of science, etc., etc., that many good people are afraid to dabble with it too much, lest they should make shipwreck of faith and so become castaways. Of course there are dangers. There are dangers in going to Europe to see the Old World. There are dangers in horseback exercise. There are dangers, too, in being ignorant of some things taught us by modern science. Ministers sometimes utter what they suppose to be scientific truths in the pulpit, when they are venting exploded ideas of a generation or more ago. Let me, however, point out a few dangers which may attend such scientific study as ministers can afford to give.

First, there is the danger of supposing that science is hostile to revelation because one writer hit upon is inimical to it, or because modern science broaches conclusions which are not reconcilable with our pre-conceived exegeses of Holy Scripture. I was inexpressibly pained on reading a recent notice of Charles Darwin's life by a clergyman, to find that he uses Darwin's honest confession of a falsehood told in youth, to insinuate that perhaps he did not quite recover from the habit of lying in after years. What will impress all men who keep pace with modern scientific inquiry, is the enthusiastic pursuit of truth by men of science. The scientific men have erred sometimes; have used hard words sometimes about theologians. Have the theologians never provoked them? Have they always used the "soft answer which turns away wrath"? It is a wholesome lesson for the clergy to recall the early controversy on Genesis and geology. Better remember this and let the scientific men go on investigating evolution before we put ourselves on record as denouncing its anti-scriptural, infidel tendencies.

There is another danger in such study—the danger of attempting too much. The field is the world, but ministers can ill afford to scatter too much time over so large a surface. Dr. McCook has found that the study of ants has given him all that he can do wisely and well. Choose your favorite science; be it astronomy, or botany, or ornithology, or physics, or entomology. Find your spare hours for reading up in that, keeping your eye on the whole. Everything in these days goes by specialism. No mortal man can drive all the sciences abreast. But it is astonishing how much one can come to know by simply keeping his eyes open in one direction.

There is still another danger in scientific study for ministers. It is that of airing their scientific knowledge in the pulpit. The chances are they will blunder about it. Some of the so-called scientific statements made by divines in a late General Assembly were, as viewed by scientific men, so much hopeless blundering. They only made men of science laugh. They were uttered with a sublime unconsciousness of their egregious folly. But none the less were they a humiliation to the religion they were supposed to be upholding. The pulpit teaching is sometimes enriched by apt illustrations from science. But there is