

that so much is yet to be done, is like a trumpet call rousing to action. If already success has smiled on the field and harvest sheaves are gathered, the same blessing may be hopefully expected again; or if defects in modes of action have prevented the ripening of the fruit, let these be set aside. The ancient Romans did not scorn to learn in war even from barbarian foes; foiled by the enemy's use of a superior weapon, their policy led to its adoption by themselves before their next encounter. True, the energy by which the human heart is conquered is divine; the weapons employed are of heavenly temper, nevertheless our method of handling the word of God may lack skill and power. The question then comes up, can we improve so as to attain to greater results? Under the eye of our glorious Leader, are we prepared for an advance? Speak unto the house of Israel that they go forward has a meaning now. Our circumstances, our country, and our times require us to cherish the noble ambition of being the instruments of doing much good in the land. Now faithfulness to the congregations we have, is one of the best means to increase those congregations. In doing this,

1st. *Let us aim at increasing the power of the pulpit.*—The solemn, earnest and powerful address of the retiring chairman of the Union, which we had the pleasure of publishing in our July number, is worthy of deep thought. The importance of preaching must be more or less present to the thoughts of every minister; may there not be an increasing excellence, a growing unction attained by the brethren? Can it be wrong to cherish a holy enthusiasm in the work? The aim being to secure the salvation of men, every minister may well bend the energies of his whole soul, to attain eminence in that which is the appointed means of God, to save them that believe. *Growth* in ministerial and pulpit power is surely the natural order, and not the mere preservation of a respectable ministerial stature. To be satisfied with a low standard, when the page of history shines with the bright examples of bygone times, would prove disastrous and dishonourable. There were giants in the earth in those days—giants in theology, and glorious reapers in the harvest field. To emulate their deeds is not sin: "covet earnestly the best gifts." Let us in every sermon have an aim—not to bewilder the people, not to mystify their minds by metaphysical abstractions, not to dazzle with the glitter and eccentricities of style—but to set forth truth from a heart burning with love for souls, with affection, with simplicity, and with power, to convince and convert the lost.

Our dear people, also, can improve the minister's sermons, and in that way add much to the fruitfulness of every year's work. Their manner of treating a pastor by a kind, just, and generous provision for his temporal necessities, so long as preachers are men and not angels, must have considerable weight in improving the character of the engagements in the "city of our solemnities." The kind of hearing given to a minister has no small influence, how often does the glowing eye and the earnest look, show that the hearer is drinking deeply of the waters of life. We make no apology for sleepy preachers, but a dull, sleepy, inattentive audience can hardly look for good sermons. It does good to see a reverential ear turned to the word of God. In fact, an intelligent hearer showing that he respects what is said, is a power in a congregation. It is easy to kill a sermon. Unthinking remarks or ill-natured criticisms not unfrequently destroy impressions. We have sometimes wondered in christian households, at the injudicious remarks that have been made on a sermon just delivered. The influence of such a style of talk on the young in a family, is damaging to their best interests. Parents are disappointed when their chil-