

Ah! the gift was only lent,
With the Giver's known intent
That it should be wisely spent.

And I know He will demand
Every farthing at my hand;
When I in his presence stand.

What will be my grief and shame
When I hear my humble name,
And cannot repay His claim!

Some will double what they hold;
Others add to it ten-fold,
And pay back in shining gold.

Lord, Oh teach me what to do!
Make me faithful, make me true,
And the sacred trust renew.

Help me, ere too late it be,
Something now to do for Thee!
Thou who hast done all for me!

Christian Thought.

PREACHING:—A POPULAR MISCONCEPTION.



HERE is a mode of preaching the gospel at the present day, exceedingly popular, but which we regard as defective in its appropriate influences. It consists in addressing the imagination with lively imagery or highly-wrought pictures, and endeavouring to awaken the emotions and affections through this, rather than through the reason, by the majesty of tenderness and truth. We object to this mode of sermonising, because it awakens essentially the same class of emotions that are awakened by the drama and romance; and, therefore, though the truth may be clearly exhibited, it fails to produce its legitimate gospel effect. In other words, while it awakens great interest, moves the sympathies, starts the tear, even agitates the hearer, it does not deeply or permanently affect the conscience and devotional affections. It rather pleases than benefits. It excites, but yields little Christian nutriment. As a tragedy seldom improves the morals, so this picturesque, enchanting preaching seldom strengthens the Christian