

which I was drinking at another well. In the fourth and fifth I came into a better temper. I trust you will be wiser; and prize your opportunities beyond gold. If you will not object to the illustration, let me remind you that you are yet but babes in theology, and require to take hold of the breast of your Alma Mater. And mothers will tell you that the more determinedly you go at it, the more likely you are to be strong and healthy.

Be receptive rather than critical. It is said that sometimes critics review books which they have never read, and I know among the students with whom I used to be familiar there was a tendency to pick faults in a lecture before the principle of the lecture was understood. Having felt the breath of the thought of the age, as it is grandly called, they thought that the professors ought to have given them something up to the times. But those students have learned that the professors were wiser than they, and that it was good for them, while having their minds open to all the light that comes, to be firmly grounded in those eternal verities which can never be shaken.

So then be receptive. Let your motto be "swift to hear." The time for criticism will come after, and if there be, as without doubt there are, some Christian doctrines which need to be re-stated, and brought into harmony with the enlarging thought of the day you will be all the better qualified for the work because you have thoroughly learned the doctrines.

One other point I desire to emphasize. Learn to take Christ's view of life, and be more anxious to know His mind than the mind of any of the lights of the present day. I remember an incident which brought this strikingly home to me. A number of ministers and students were in a parlour spending a social evening, and among them was an eminent doctor of divinity, a man of world-wide reputation. In a corner of the room two students were discussing an important doctrine, I forget now what it was, but I think it was the doctrine of future punishment. Others joined till there was quite a circle, and each in turn was giving his view of the matter. One of the students went to the doctor in another part of the room and asked his opinion. The wise man saw that too much stress would be put on his opinion by an admiring student, and replied "it is a comparatively small matter to find out what I think on this solemn question, but it is of immense importance to find out what Jesus thinks," and then he proceeded to call attention to some of the sayings of the Great Teacher. I can never forget the lesson I learned from this incident, and often when I am eager to find out this man's view and the other man's view, I say to myself: Have I not the word of the Master?

A near relative, an old man of sturdy habits of thought, has become one of my audience since I came

to Canada; and sometimes I get very plain talk from him about my sermons. More than once he has said to me: "we don't want to hear what you think, we want to know what the Bible says."

By these incidents I wish to lift into prominence the duty of absolute submission to the Lord. You are to be His ministers, and you are so to preach that you will make the people realize that they are dealing with the exalted Master, and not with man whose breath is in his nostrils. Be close companions of Him every day and every hour of your life, and preaching about Him will be your native air.

And now, gentlemen, permit me to say, in conclusion that I set a high value on you, higher perhaps than you imagine seeing I know none of you personally. I value you because I see that if you are true to your holy calling, true to your exalted Master, influences will go forth from you which will roll on and out to the end of time, and which, when time is no more, will make music on the eternal shore. You are but a handful, but we are told that a handful of corn on the top of the mountains will shake like the cedars of Lebanon. Amen.

A CALL TO SPURGEON.

The congregation of Smith's Corners met lately for the purpose of extending a call to a minister. There was a fair attendance, and a considerable amount of interest was taken in the proceedings, as it had been rumoured for some time that the Corners people would probably ask the great London preacher to become their pastor. The meeting having been duly opened, the chairman, after a few remarks on the importance of the work before them, asked those present to proceed to business.

Mr. Diotrephes Highflyer then rose, and said he had a motion to make which he felt sure would secure the support of all present. They had now been vacant for over two years, and had heard about fifty candidates. Some of these were good enough men, but none of them came up to the standard required at Smith's Corners. They needed a first-class man in their church, and there was no use in calling any other. The Methodists were getting a good man, and they must have the best possible talent in their church or they might as well close it. Their people demanded the best pulpit ability in the country, and they were willing to pay for it. They could raise, at least, three hundred dollars a year and no doubt they could get a supplement. He had been carefully looking over a list of those who had preached and of the most effective men in the Church, and he was persuaded none of them was suitable. They wanted a man of peculiar aulities to fill the Corners pulpit, and he was convinced they would have to go to another country for him. He had been looking into the record of a few