

That trouble often arises in congregations, sometimes from the pastor's side, which, for the time being, greatly hinders the Lord's work is freely granted. At the same time, I do not believe that such trouble is traceable to what is commonly called "poor preaching." We must remember the old saying, "It takes two 'good' people to make a 'good' sermon,"—a good preacher and a good hearer. It was in connection with hearing that Jesus said, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you, and more shall be added. For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath," (Mk. iv. 24, 25.) A hearer that is out of sympathy with the preacher, even when the preacher is Jesus himself, comes to be "without" (Mk. iv. 11) in relation to that preacher, and pays the usual penalty. He sees, but perceives not, and hears, but understands not. He says there is no good seed cast, and knows not that he has become a wayside hearer, or one of the other evil kinds. I presume every church has an ideal of its own of what constitutes "good preaching," and aims in its colleges to supply the kind of preachers which are supposed to be in demand. Our church has its own ideal, and our colleges attain much success in meeting what is understood to be the demand. One of our most intelligent elders of a town congregation that had been vacant for about two years, remarked to me about the end of the vacancy, "Our long vacancy is in part, at least, owing to the excellence of our preachers. We have heard a great many; but we have not heard yet a really poor sermon, and our people have become divided in their choice." Another elder, who occupies a seat on the Bench in a neighboring province, remarked some years ago, "My duties have led me to travel about the country a great deal, and I have heard many of our preachers, old and young, and I can say that a poor sermon is rarely heard." Nevertheless, the Judge said some pretty hard things about ministers from other points of view. So far as I have ever heard, this is the general testimony.

HOW CAN THE DIFFICULTIES BE LESSENED?

I do not believe that a very large measure of relief can be obtained by the interference of Presbytery. Ask ministers of long experience, and the almost invariable reply is, Don't have a