

great transformation came over the place as the result of his two years' ministry, and his effectiveness as a preacher, both there and in Newcastle, raised him to the position of a royal chaplain. Wherever he labored indeed, his word was with power, and the English ambassador at the Court of Scotland was speaking of what he had himself seen when he wrote to Cecil: "I assure you the voice of one man is able in an hour to put more life in us than six hundred trumpets continually blustering in our ears." But indeed, the Reformation in Scotland was itself very largely the result of his preaching. No doubt it was begun before he entered on the work, and there were others laboring as well as he. But to him most of all are due the organization and conservation of the work in the formation of a national church. By his ministry the entire face and future of Scotland were changed. She has made great progress in many directions since his day, and outgrown many of the limitations within which, perhaps, he would have restricted her, but the success of his work made it possible for her to become what she is to-day. And it was as a preacher mainly that he did his work. He was a statesman indeed as his great scheme of education clearly proves; and the fact that his advice was sought by multitudes in difficulties is an evidence that he was a man of wisdom. But though different excellencies might come out in him on different occasions, they were all in exercise, and always at their best in the pulpit. It was the glass which focussed all his powers into a point and quickened them into an intensity that kindled everything it touched. It brightened his intellect, enlivened his imagination, clarified his judgment, inflamed his courage, and gave fiery energy to his utterance. He was never elsewhere so great in any one of these particulars as he was when in the pulpit, in them all; for there, over and above the "*præfervidum ingenium Scotorum*" which he had in such large measure, and the glow of animation which fills the soul of the orator as he addresses an audience, he had the feeling that he was called of God to be faithful, and that lifted him entirely out of himself. He spoke because he could not but speak; and his words went *in* to men. Like those modern missiles which burst within the wounds which they have made, so his words *exploded within the hearts* of those who received them, and set them on fire with convictions that flamed forth in conduct. It was apparently impossible for any one to listen to him without being moved either to antagonism or to agreement, or—for he could be tender also—to tears.

It may be said, indeed, that he allowed himself too great liberty in commenting, in the pulpit, on public men and national affairs; and we may readily admit that in ordinary times and under altered circumstances it would be unwise in most preachers to do precisely as he did; but we have to bear in mind that the crisis through which his country was passing at that time was as much religious as political, and that