

teaching, but the experience of persons is different. And when we allow our preaching to be coloured by our own experience we may impress some minds of constitution and experience similar to our own, but we will overlook a great many others whose circumstances are different. It is necessary, therefore, to know the wants of the people and to vary our teaching so as to satisfy the needs of all. There are hours to encourage, and hearts that need encouragement. There are hours to preach the thunders of Sinai, and hearts that need *it*. There are hours to speak of the love of Calvary and hearts that need *it*.

The Presbyterian church has ceased to observe many of the stated fasts and ceremonies of earlier days. Although there was much cause for their discontinuance they did good. They kept before the minds of the people all the central doctrines of Christianity. Every minister should have before him some church formula, by following which he will preach all the fundamental doctrines of the Bible within a given period. By a similar method of systematic preaching, all the historical facts of the early church, as well as all the varied phases of society sanctified by the Saviour's presence, may be touched upon.

Each of the twelve apostles has some particular lesson to teach. Let none of them be over-looked.

So, also the Christian virtues, not

only *one*, but *all*, must be enforced with the best effort and the deepest feeling of the preacher.

Finally, in choosing a subject, think not how you can best show off your powers of argumentation or oratory, but how you can most effectively reach and satisfy the wants of the people."

Several questions bearing on the subject under discussion were then asked, the answers eliciting much wise counsel; and the conference adjourned not to meet again until after the Christmas holidays.

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#### PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

The first public meeting of the Philosophical and Literary Society for the session of 1886-7 was held in the David Morrice hall, on Friday, the 3rd inst., at 8 p.m. Owing to several other meetings being held the same evening, the audience was much smaller than we are accustomed to see on such occasions. However the rounds of applause with which the speeches and readings were greeted, as well as the *encores* to the musical parts of the programme, so enthusiastically called for, clearly proved that in spite of the absence of that fervour which a large audience inspires, the performers acquitted themselves admirably. The following was the programme of the evening: