

&c. But these have not been the only objects contemplated by such readings. The subjects on which we have read were mostly theological ; and hence many points of great importance in theology have turned up in this course of reading, about which we have had free inquiry and conversation. These readings, we believe, have proved very useful.

The brethren have gone through a regular series of exercises in sermonizing, dividing and arranging subjects for the pulpit, and preparing short sermons in manuscript, which have been read, corrected and amended ; while individuality of mind and cast of thought have been encouraged, that each man, as much as possible, might be himself.

We have delivered about forty theological lectures, including two on baptism, and given ten or twelve addresses on preaching—scriptural preaching, the right spirit which should influence the preacher, preparation for preaching, and on pastoral duties in general, as Primitive Methodist preachers. The church now wants men suitable for the duties of the times. This is a restless, speculative age, characterized for lack of reverence of sacred truths, and a disposition to question the inspiration and divine basis of the scriptures. We need young ministers who have clear and broad views of God's truth, and who may become able, if need be, to cope with the adversaries of our holy faith, with strong hearts. Men are thinking, and the Church must arise, and by means of her ministry, and her spirituality, be a power equal to the needs of these unrestful and sceptical times. Some persons think very superficially about young ministers as to their theology. Bits and scraps committed to memory, and mere declamations and common places will not suffice now. The grand theological truths of the Bible should be well grasped by all men who give their lives to the ministry ; and we should remember, too, that creeds and catechisms do not contain all—that doubtless, untold treasures of truth yet remain undeveloped, and will reward diligent seekers. These times require that young men be assisted in literary attainments ; that they be clear on the great subjects about which they have to preach to the people. The design of the Ministry is to maintain the truth, convert souls, and build up the Church.

There is, of course, differences in the progress of the brethren. We have found a little difficulty with such as have become somewhat advanced in years, inasmuch as they have often much to unlearn, as well as learn. When a brother's education has been neglected almost all his life, he can only make comparatively small progress during a few months.

We have directed special attention to what concerns the brethren relative to the work of the ministry ; pressed upon them the importance of cultivating the gift of speech ; told them to read, think, write and aim at being good, plain, pointed speakers,