

into connection with the great industrial, social, and civil problems, that are so prominently before the public mind, and is called upon to mark out his course in dealing with these problems. There are certain things to which he will do well to attend.

1st. His message will need to guard against the new positivist sociology arising out of the atomism and materialism of the age, and everywhere exerting its demoralizing influence upon public opinion and law. The materialistic method, in excluding all rational and moral facts, principles and considerations, leaves out everything that is of any real importance and scientific value in social science, and shuts out all possibility of human improvement on such a basis. Its affirmation of the absolute heredity of crime; its denial of free will and consequently of human responsibility; its assertion that there is no such thing as absolute crime, the so-called crimes being merely infractions of social rules made for convenience or self-preservation in certain conditions of society, and changing with those conditions, so that even chastity may be "an artificial and conventional virtue;" its regarding of crime as a matter of condition and environment, rather than of character; and the embodiment of all this in a positivist criminology by Lombroso and his school, constitute one of the threatening phenomena of the day. The elaborate fooling by disciples of these men—in detecting and classifying criminals by physical marks rather than moral, and in presenting "surer methods of detecting the criminal by the observation of tattooing, anthropometry, physiognomy, the physiopsychic conditions, the data as to sensitiveness, reflex activity, vasomotor reactions, the extent of the field of vision, etc.;" their settled purpose of reconstructing on this basis the whole theory of crime and punishment, and the system of law applicable to them; and the palming off of all this as "the latest science"—would be simply laughable, were it not that, with materialism in the air, it is ominously threatening and terribly demoralizing.

It will not be enough for the preacher to scout all this as unscientific even though it be so to the last degree. He must find the message of the law of God in the Bible with which to meet it. He must enforce with renewed distinctness and emphasis the teachings of that Bible concerning man's spiritual nature and his freedom and responsibility; the sacredness and absolute character of right and virtue, and the inherently despicable character of wrong and crime; the dependence of character upon the man himself, rather than upon his environment—of all of which, with all the kindred and related principles, innumerable illustrations will be found in the preacher's text-book, the word of God. If the moral atmosphere, that is so hazy with secularism and animalism, is to be cleared; if the mad, unprecedented rush of vice and crime that to-day dazes Christendom is to be stayed; and if the mawkish sentimentality in dealing with crimes and criminals,—that has reached such a pass that, as Dr. Andrew D.